INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Becoming Like Jesus  page 3
Monthly Sermon  page 4
Marianna Rebuilding Ministry  page 6
"Enlarge my Coast"  page 6
ACCFS: Craving for Quenching  page 8
Guiding Principles at Work  page 50
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage  page 66
The Light of Hope  page 67

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, ...
Isaiah 61:10
Communion

Having just passed through the Easter season, many writers referenced sharing Communion with their church family. Most also noted that it was so appreciated after missing the opportunity in 2020 due to the circumstances. That act of sharing together after a period of absence was so refreshing as love and unity knit hearts together.

As we remember the words that Jesus uttered as he shared this holy act with his disciples, we can't help but think of what it will be like when he shares it with the faithful in heaven. While we commune with him through the Spirit, we desire for that time of sharing it with him in our eternal home. May the longing for that home and heavenly table provoke our hearts to an even deep longing to share Communion with our Lord.

In Christian love,
Rick and Michelle Kaisner, Silver Lining Editors
Becoming Like Jesus

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Our church’s second Guiding Principle states, “We seek to be like Jesus in thought, action and character, and to live the entire counsel of his Word.” The three main aspects of this are 1) progressively knowing him more intimately through prayer, reading his word, seeking the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and sharing experiences and encouragements with others, 2) modeling Christ’s example of self-sacrificial love and humble service, and 3) forgiving others as he has forgiven us. This guiding principle is perhaps most clearly expressed in Philippians 2:5-8 which states in part, “Let this mind be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God … made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant … and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself (still further) and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The mind of Christ was evident in the choice of his first disciples. Rather than men of high position, influence, or power, he chose ordinary and ‘unrefined’ men, including fishermen from Galilee and a despised tax collector. In Jesus’ ministry, although there were personal encounters with ranking Jewish leaders (Jairus, Nicodemus), much of his time and teachings were directed to “the common people (who) heard him gladly.” He preached to large crowds, but also took time for one-on-one interactions with ordinary people who needed help – the Samaritan woman at the well, the disabled man at the pool of Bethesda, the woman caught in adultery and the man born blind. The apostle Paul reiterates this principle – that in our relationships with others to “mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate” – avoid being haughty or exclusive, but readily associate with people regardless of status and be willing to perform self-sacrificing, ordinary acts of service.

Becoming like Christ is a lifelong learning and growing process that begins with repentance and conversion. Whether the initial experience is dramatic and emotional or a gradual realization of the soul’s lost condition and need for salvation, it begins with a spiritual rebirth. By God’s graciousness, the Holy Spirit enters the repentant heart and begins his transformative work by prompting more earnest prayer, regular reading and study of Scripture, and association with other believers, all leading to an increasing understanding of Jesus’ teachings and their application to daily living. The apostle Peter describes how spiritual growth proceeds: “… giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity.” After faith comes virtue, uprightness or moral excellence, resolving to “do what’s right.” Then knowledge, spiritual discernment of what is right or wrong in the light of the Word. Then temperance – moderation, self-control which governs our actions and reactions to people and circumstances. Temperance enables patience, which implies restraint and long endurance – not merely a stoic or resigned endurance, but a conscious submission of our human will to God’s holy and sovereign will, trusting that he will make “all things work together for good.” This encourages godliness, reverence or holiness, as both Old and New Testament verses urge us to “be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” Then brotherly kindness, warm affection and concern for fellow Christians as members of the church family. The final, crowning virtue is charity, agape or sacrificial love: “because he (Christ) laid down his life for us … we ought to lay — Please turn to pg. 61
The New Testament scriptures are opened here to Colossians 2. Just before we start, I want to make a short expression of gratitude and thanksgiving. We’ve felt an outpouring of love and support in the last days. We truly are blessed to be part of a congregation that is filled with God’s love, and our hearts’ desire is that every person here, every child, every family, every single person, the friends, each one of us would feel that same love.

We’re going to read in this scripture a little bit about being rooted in Christ and walking and being knit together in love. Let’s see what the Lord has in store for us even as we read from Colossians 2.

I’ve read through the third verse of Chapter 3. It’s a scripture that if you end with Chapter 2, it just doesn’t really feel like it closes on a note of clarity, but when you read a little bit further, it completes the thought of what he’s saying here. The message that he has is one of being complete in Christ: Christ being the head of the body, all of us together finding nourishment in Jesus Christ, and that we not be confused by the doctrines or traditions around us or the rudiments – thought processes – of the world or of the flesh. So, let’s just go through this and think about it together.

As Paul wrote to this church at Colossae, it seems the church was in reasonably good health. It was a church for which he gave thanks. I guess for any church that he wrote to he gave thanks, and his desire was that they would be filled with the knowledge of God’s will. They would understand God’s desires for them, and that through that, they would then be fruitful. In this chapter, we read about the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The treasures of wisdom and knowledge: where are they found?

We live in a world that’s just full of wisdom and knowledge and the philosophies of people. As we gain more and more knowledge, we become more “wise”, and we understand more and more about the human mind and body. We have more and more resources at our disposal. I just read an article, maybe quoting a survey, that was talking about the percentage of people who go to church and the percentage of people who view religion as being important in their regular living. The younger you get the lower that percentage goes, and it’s barely 50% for folks under 40 years old. It’s just an illustration of really looking at philosophy, and – depending where your philosophy is rooted – it’s a way of using logic to explain various things in this “higher-order” thinking that sometimes looks at religion as “the poor man’s opium”. It was considered a way of making yourself feel good, and that thought process is out there.

We’re probably exposed to it more than we realize, but maybe I’m just speaking to myself. It can cause us to start questioning the existence of God and the existence of spirituality, and our very faith is questioned. Yet, there’s an emptiness there. Something is missing. Paul was writing to these folks living in Colossae, which I think was in Greece, who lived amongst a pretty similar area. In Corinth, it certainly would’ve been that way; the philosophy of the Greeks was very well advanced, probably very similar to many of the philosophies that we run into today. When Paul went there and preached, he had to ground them in the unknown God they didn’t really understand, teach them that they needed to be rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ, and teach them that in him were hid the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. If you can’t relate to wrestling with
philosophies of others, that’s good, but if we here are part of those that think a lot and process a lot, those philosophies can have an impact on us, and it’s good for us to just ground ourselves first in this basic knowledge that in Jesus Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Why is that? That last song that we sang says he is the creator. He is the one that lives outside of time and outside of light. God is the source of all of those things. Therefore, in him as the creator, the one who understands all things from the greatest to the very smallest, who understands everything that’s ever going to be discovered by people, are hid wisdom and knowledge. Where do we go when we look for wisdom and knowledge? Where do we go when we’re struggling? One of the places needs to be the Bible and also to our knees in prayer, isn’t it?

He goes on here, saying he had this conflict, or desire, within. He talks here in the previous chapter, saying, “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col 1:28). So, he wants us to be perfect. I think we heard this over the weekend that “perfect” is moving towards a completed work of salvation, and our completeness comes because Jesus Christ is the fullness and fills all in all. Our sufficiency, our resting of our salvation and the source of strength we rely on, is not ourselves or in the thought process of other people, but it’s in Jesus Christ. It’s in his righteousness. It’s in his love. It’s in him that we find this nurturing.

So, he’s praying for them, “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ” (v 2). He’s acknowledging here that there is a mystery. When we seek to understand something by faith, there’s going to be a measure of doubt. It’s by faith. If there wasn’t uncertainty, it wouldn’t be by faith. He’s acknowledging that it is a mystery to understand God, to try to comprehend everything about God. God is sovereign; we are human. Our perspective is so small compared to his. We shouldn’t expect to comprehend all of that, but he reveals to us enough through his Holy Spirit. He reveals it to us in so many different ways, sometimes through our own personal experiences. If we think back – those of us that are converted – to the feeling in our heart when we had the faith to fully grasp and believe that we were forgiven and that our sins were wiped away and thrown in the sea of forgetfulness. We were new creatures, and we did not have to be afraid to die.

Some of us were at the gathering last night, and it was all about earthly things you do to prepare to die. It was well worthwhile. All of those things are certainly extremely useful and important, but I’m sure most everyone there had the thought “are we prepared ourselves for death?” Death itself is a mystery. How thankful we can be if we have that knowledge and we’ve been through that experience of feeling the forgiveness of God and knowing in our hearts. That’s evidence that we know we are his when we feel his Spirit in our hearts, isn’t it? It strengthens our faith. Then, we might go through life, and sometime later, maybe weeks, months, years later, we might question that. We need to go back to those Ebenezers and remember.

There’re other things that he gives us, and he describes those here. A lot of this chapter is about being part of this body that is rooted in Christ, built up in him, and also knit together in love. Knit together in love and not just when everything’s going well. We think about the test of love. It’s a lot easier to love when we’re all unified, we all think the same way, we feel the spirit among us, and things are going really well. That’s a great time to
Ministry Program Updates

Marianna Rebuilding Ministry

**Trusting God Through Uncertain Times**  USA Committee

On October 18, 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach, Florida as a powerful Category 5 storm with sustained winds of 160 mph. Moving inland, the storm inflicted major damage across Jackson and Calhoun counties and the city of Marianna as it continued north over the panhandle into Alabama and Georgia where it weakened. Wind was the primary destructive force causing an endless number of trees to be uprooted or snapped off high above the ground. This resulted in damage to roofs allowing rainwater to inundate homes causing damage to walls, floors and contents followed by mold and mildew making occupancy very unhealthy. For many, there was no choice but to continue living in these deplorable conditions.

In July of 2020, a HarvestCall leadership team made its first visit to Marianna to investigate the needs and explore the opportunity to serve in this location. Trusting in God to direct this process, we go in faith seeking clear direction – doors to open and relationships to be established. Meetings were held with two Long-Term Recovery Organizations whose responsibility is to connect resources with those who have demonstrated inability to recover on their own. These are the families we want to help. Additionally, we needed to find a facility to house our volunteers and leadership team – always a major challenge.

God’s hand was evident in leading us to the North Florida Inland Long Term Recovery Group and to Blue Springs Christian Camp in Marianna. Following our meeting with the recovery group, we were confident they understood our goals and they assured us there would be plenty of work to keep us busy. The following day, we toured Blue Springs which had been vacant since the hurricane.

Pray for God to “Enlarge my Coast”  Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India

India, like the rest of the world, experienced many challenges as a result of the Covid outbreak. Despite these hindrances, the RGMMI ministry continued. Houses of worship were forced to close for months, but church leaders kept in touch with their members by phone and personal home visits. As the country began to open up, small group meetings were held to share God’s word. RGMMI staff distributed food packages to very poor sections of Nashik where RGMMI is headquartered; in some rural areas, recipients walked 8-10 kilometers for the relief packages! A helpline was also set up to mentor and counsel those who needed encouragement and someone to listen.

In recent months, regular services at RGMMI churches have resumed. In recognition of their sins and need for the Savior, a number of people have repented and have been baptized: praise God! As we pray for God to “enlarge my coast” (I Chronicles 4:9), one of our rural churches is sponsoring a “creche for kids”; an activity program for preschool children that creates an opportunity for many youngsters to hear about Jesus at an early age. In addition, RGMMI evangelists have reached into a new community that
and was recently sold to new owners. The timing of this exchange was key to our opportunity to use this facility – Only God! The vacant facilities were still without electrical power. Despite that, our tour revealed that this facility had all the components needed to accommodate our teams. A large commercial kitchen with dining room adjacent; multiple dormitories with showers and bathrooms; housing for many of the long-term staff as well as RV hook-ups. Nothing was lacking! Clearly, God had opened doors in a big way!

In a “normal” year, the decision would have been simple. God had surely opened doors and led us in amazing ways. Praise God for His faithful and clear direction! But, we were in a pandemic! Is it wise to proceed with plans that will bring volunteers together from across the country into accommodations where shared facilities and meals are the expectation? Big questions remained!

Believing the scriptural directive that “in the multitude of counsellors, there is safety,” (Prov. 24:6) the USA Committee sought counsel from the HarvestCall Management Team, Medical Committee and church leadership – the Elder Committee. Through this counsel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the decision was made to move forward with the rebuilding ministry. Trusting God for His provision and protection above any risk-mitigation protocols we could implement; the rebuilding ministry began on January 10th and continued through March 30th. In that period, 489 volunteers from 51 congregations came to serve. Thankfully, we are not aware of any COVID transmission resulting from this ministry. Praise God!! – by Les Schambach

has expressed a desire to learn more about the Savior. Please pray that God will continue to open doors for the proliferation of the gospel through RGMMI’s ministry (Acts 1:8). With a desire to grow in their understanding of the Word of God, all RGMMI spiritual staff are presently enrolled in a Bible training course. (II Pet. 1:5; II Tim. 2:15)

The employment of our new Director/Administrator of RGMMI has been a rich blessing to the entire organization. Dr. Nitin Joseph, who previously served as a volunteer board member of the RGMMI India board, felt a calling to serve as the full-time Director/Administrator of the RGMMI organization. His wife, Manisha, is an experienced educator and instantly became a valuable addition to the RGMMI educational ministry upon her arrival. Even though schools were shut down, on-line instruction was provided through extensive effort and innovation. Earlier this year, the schools were reopened. However, in Mid-March, the Indian government closed the schools once again. In person worship services have also been temporarily suspended.

We are so thankful for modern technology and communication that has enabled RGMMI to continue to its mission despite the pandemic. “To God be the glory, great things He has done!” – by John Lehman
“O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.” Psalm 90:14

They met at a well because they both were thirsty. They each had a physical need that needed to be met. “Give me to drink...”, Jesus requests of the woman (John 4:7). This craving for quenching was the backdrop Jesus needed to help the Samaritan woman understand the satisfaction God offers. And to her surprise, and ours also, it is very satisfying.

We understand very well the concept of satisfaction. Every time we draw a breath, drink a glass of water, eat a meal, achieve a goal, or collapse exhausted into bed at the end of a hard day’s work, we enjoy satisfaction. It is the quenching of an appetite. The satiation of a need. Satisfaction comes in different shapes and sizes and can be applied to any real or perceived physical, emotional or relational need. Moses, the author of Psalm 90:14, provides four refreshing facts about the satisfaction that comes from God. We will take them one at a time and in the order they appear.

First the psalmist writes “O satisfy...” This introduction suggests the pursuit of satisfaction is not the prize but satisfaction itself is the prize. At first glance this is not remarkable at all. Yet, with more careful personal inspection, I must confess that very often I glory in the pursuit of satisfying rather than the satisfaction itself. Which one of us would forgo the meal and skip to the satisfaction? Not too many. No, we love the eating. We love the drinking. We love the sleeping. We love the pursuit. It then comes as no surprise to learn much of what we consume in this life has never been engineered to fully satisfy. If social media satisfied me, I would shut if off having had my satisfying fill. That’s not good for business. If the Lay’s potato chip satisfied me, I would not finish the bag and go buy another-with a belly ache to boot. “This world will never satisfy” not only because it cannot but because it does not want to.

Secondly, Moses writes “O satisfy us early...” It is refreshing to learn that God’s satisfaction happens at the beginning and not at the ending. No earthly satisfaction comes in this manner. Rather, satisfaction comes at the end of the meal, at the end of slumber, at the end of a hard day’s work. Furthermore, it is good for satisfaction to come in this way. Every employer wants her employee motivated by the carrot of satisfaction. A dozen character qualities have grown in us because of this cause-and-effect relationship between preceding effort and following satisfaction. God offers something different — very different. He offers a satisfaction that comes early and by it we live and have our being from the standpoint of contented, finished achievement. The believer can start their day with a finishing satisfaction.

What is the nature of this satisfaction? Moses tells us this also. “O satisfy us early with thy mercy”. The third refreshing fact about the satisfaction of God is it is not earned. The satisfaction of God is realized. It is
Facts about the Satisfaction of God

His mercy that satiates our wants and needs. This is remarkable. Typically the mechanisms of satisfaction are grand, noteworthy, engineered and won. Yet the quiet, unassuming favor of God is enough to capture the heart of man and put him at rest. The hard work required for our satisfaction has come by way of the hard work of Christ. We enter into His work, into His satisfying rest.

Finally, the satisfactions we experience here on earth expire and come up for renewal. How many times do we push ourselves back from the dinner table after a big meal to exclaim “I will never need to eat again!” Hunger at this point is so forgotten that it’s truly hard to imagine craving even another bite. And yet, in four short hours our appetite will return and make demands for satisfaction. And so, it is with every other desire we experience. We are thirsty again, tired again, in need of affirmation again and the cycle of satisfaction and expiration continue. But the satisfaction of God is different. The fourth surprising fact of God’s satisfaction is that it endures and does not expire. “O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”

“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again” (John 4:13), Jesus told the woman. “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:14) She believed him. After all, she left her water pot at the well and returned home to tell others of the only One who can truly satisfy. May we likewise seek satisfaction from the One who can truly quench our craving.

ACCFS has a host of resources on various topics to encourage a believer in their walk and growth in the Lord. They range from adapted Bible studies and discussion aids for groups to papers and handouts for individual study to presentations and seminars for the entire church family. These resources can be found at www.accounseling.org/category/spiritualgrowth. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org.
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian LifePoints
www.aclifepoints.org
@aclifepoints on Facebook or Instagram
Ashlyn Gramm-Mission
Communication Coordinator

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philip. 1:21

This past fall, we experienced the deaths of a few deeply loved residents at LifePoints. We once again had to say good-bye this past April to another beloved individual who had lived with us for thirty years. Each time a resident passes, our hearts must stop to reflect and process their absence. Death is an interesting thing to reflect on, especially when we look at it with a heavenly perspective. We are so grateful for the time each of our residents had here on earth, and we feel so blessed to have been invited into their lives as they lived with us at LifePoints.

Just as Paul writes in Philippians, we all have the desire to bring glory to God as we live and to fully experience God’s glory when we die. While our residents live here on earth, we see Christ at work through their lives – they impact all whom they come into contact with. Staff, family members, friends, and the community are all transformed by the love they give and the lessons they teach. It is difficult for each one of us when a resident passes, but we know that they will be made new in heaven. There is so much for them to look forward to in this new season of true, eternal life. They have finished the race and have won the victory!

As residents move on to eternal life, their impact here does not end at death. At LifePoints, we see God redeem death by allowing one resident’s passing to bring new life for others. This season of loss is transformed into a season of increase as we seek to fill these new openings at our homes. We first make sure we are best serving our current residents’ needs, moving them to different locations if that is what will bring fullness to their lives. After that, we get to turn to those on the waiting list and offer to serve them. It’s powerful to see God orchestrate these seasons, allowing each resident and family we serve at LifePoints to live a beautiful and full life while on this earth. And what a joy it will be when we are all reunited together with our Lord in heaven!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Samantha Ericksom — Foster Care Supervisor

Jarrod and Shannon McGuire followed the calling God placed on their lives by fostering and caring for children through the Gateway Woods Foster Care program. They have been foster parents for several years now and have had numerous children come through their home who have all felt the stability, security, and love the McGuires have to offer. While they have blessed and loved each child that has come into their home, they’ve also taken it a step further at times, extending the same love, grace, and patience to the biological families of their foster children as well.

One particular summer, a sibling duo, Truitt* and Trinity*, were placed with the McGuires. They were there until reunification with their biological family, so it was a relatively short stay in foster care terms, lasting less than four months. This short amount of time did not stop them; Shannon especially, from loving on and pouring into Truitt and Trinity, their biological mother Tasha*, and their other siblings.

What started as a bit of an uncomfortable relationship with Tasha, some smiles at visitation drop-offs, and occasional texts to share how the children were doing, soon turned into a beautiful friendship. Shannon made a point to reach out to Tasha, checking in on her to see how she was doing, and would go above and beyond at the few scheduled drop-offs by continually praying over her.
Soon, Truitt and Trinity returned home with their mother and siblings. Things were difficult at first, which is not uncommon. Many families struggle when their children return home from foster care, but it is often scary to reach out and ask for help, the main reason being the fear of system involvement again. Rather than trying to push through on her own, Tasha chose to reach out to Shannon. And Shannon chose to come around her and support her through the difficulties. She spent a couple of days a month with Tasha and her family, helping with babysitting and doing life alongside her. She continued to invite her to church and pray over their family struggles.

This friendship really came into play when Tasha feared that her children would be removed from her home again. Her first call was to Shannon. She asked Shannon to step in and help care for her children and Shannon was quick to come to her aid through a painful situation, clearly seeing that she just needed the support of a friend and not the removal of her children again.

Not feeling fully equipped herself, Shannon reached out to Gateway to gain insight and resources that could support her through this. With Shannon as a support person in her life, Tasha was in turn able to receive the support and resources she needed to keep all of her children in her home and continue working to provide income for her family.

To this day, Jarrod and Shannon choose to walk through life alongside many biological families, sharing grace and love through difficult times in their lives. While they love the children placed in their home, they never stop there. They see the real purpose of foster care: loving the entire family unit.

*Name changed for confidentiality.

**News:**
- If you want to make a Kingdom impact by sowing seeds of hope for an eternal harvest, visit gatewaywoods.org/sowers-of-hope to learn more about our newly launched monthly giving program. Sign up today to receive a special gift as a reminder to be praying for the youth you are impacting.
- We currently are looking for a WillowBridge Community Advocate Support Couple and an Assistant Houseparent. For more information, please see our ad in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers.
- We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2021. Please contact Bro. Keith Schambach at keith.schambach@gatewaywoods.org for more information.
- We also are searching for our GW Farms Summer Intern. Please contact Bro. Eric Bahler at gwfarms@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to work directly with residents as you plant and harvest bountiful gifts from the garden. Please contact Bro. Eric Bahler at gwfarms@gatewaywoods.org for more information.
- We are also searching for our Summer Education Intern. Please contact Bro. Brock Williamson at brock.williamson@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience while impacting our residents!
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- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing...
help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at gatewaywoods.org/newsletter or by emailing jon.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

Alabama, Athens
Lisa Aschliman, Kristy Moore

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” Matt. 17:20

Doubt. Isn’t this a tool of Satan that likes to creep into our minds? The disciples had attempted to heal a little boy, but were unsuccessful. They were perplexed. Why were they unable to heal this little boy? Jesus called them out… they doubted. After witnessing the countless miracles and power of Christ, they still doubted. Did they realize they were doubting?

Oh, how I can relate. I know God has power and control over everything, but from time to time, that little thought of doubt makes its ugly way into my mind. Thank goodness we only need a mustard seed of faith! May Christ help us overcome our unbelief (Mark 9:25), so that he will be glorified.

It’s here!! All the preparation has come to fruition as we are finally able to host ALive over Memorial Day Weekend!! We are looking forward to this weekend of fellowship and worship. What a sweet reunion it will be, especially after the past year of isolation! Please pray for an uplifting weekend and health/safety for all attending.

We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis and Sis. Clarann Lynn, and their families as they continue to battle cancer.

As always, we would love to have y’all visit, even if you’re traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815.674.5411.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“Bath-sheba therefore went unto king Solomon, to speak unto him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her, and bowed himself unto her, and sat down on his throne, and caused a seat to be set for the king’s mother; and she sat on his right hand.” 1 Kings 2:19

In Hebrew society, and throughout Scripture, mothers are held in high esteem. Certainly, Solomon – the wisest man who ever lived – treated his mother with honor. It does not seem she had any reason to believe she would not be well-received when she wanted to speak with her son, the king. And when she presented a request that would potentially make a way for someone else to overthrow his claim to the throne, he did not admonish or punish her for it. It seems these two had a good relationship, as there should be between a mother and her son.

We are not given many details about the mothering that went on with the women whose stories are included in Scripture. There are many examples of a mother’s sacrificial love. Some we know better than others. We know of the mother of the living infant who would have given him up to save his life; the mother of Moses, who gave her son up to the Egyptians and was allowed to help raise him; Hannah, who “lent” her son to God in fulfillment of her promise to God; Rebekah’s mother who allowed her daughter to move to a far-off land to marry a stranger. Then there is Mary, who sacrificed her reputation, her lifestyle, and gave her son first to the people who followed him, and then to the world. Motherhood is sacrifice. But God graciously repays everything we willingly offer, and more.

A mother’s love is a unique and wonderful thing. There is no love that can compare to the love of a mother for her child, or to a child for its mother. No matter how old we grow, our mother will have a place in our heart that can be occupied by no one else. This is by design. God meant for us to understand his love for us by referencing the love of a parent for its child. While we are not all mothers, we all have a mother, and she fills a unique spot. Even those whose mothers are not good parents have that same love for them. Sadly, when the place is not filled with a loving parent, there can be damage, because we are designed for such a relationship. Yet, in his mercy, God can fill those voids when they exist.
When my mother passed, she left an unfillable hole. Thankfully, I have many wonderful memories and can still experience her love in them. I think of her often and am so grateful for the sacrificial love that my mother had for me! Even though I miss her, I can look forward to meeting her again one day. What a blessing!

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted…” Isa. 66:13

Once again, our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers, including Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), and Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN). We appreciate their willingness to stand before us and allow the Spirit to use them to bring us the Word.

We celebrate the success of our young folks who are graduating this Spring. These include, from college: Fredric Hoerr and Adrienne Waibel; from high school: Josiah Baum and Kayla Witzig; from 8th grade: Odin Ebert, Matz Hinrichsen and Josie Labudde. Congratulations to each of you!

We rejoice that souls are turning to the Lord, and welcome Josie Labudde, Portia Virkler, Ava Hinrichsen and Jared and Mackenzie Wuehrich to our fellowship. There is much joy in Heaven, among the angels and the saints and, of course, our loving Lord!

**Arizona, Prescott**  
**Autumn Rokey**

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” Mark 1:35

As the sun is starting to rise early and spring has set upon us, it is much easier to get out of bed and start the day. The light draws us out of our slumber and invigorates us to get moving. But Jesus got up before the sun rose. Partially to not be followed by all those seeking him but also by the need to spend time alone with God. Do we let Jesus be the light that draws us out of bed and into communion with him before the busy day starts?

Thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT).

**Arizona, Tucson**  
**Dean and Jackie Knobloch**

This month Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris, MN) visited and brought us the Word. We are thankful for all our visitors. Bro. Gene Denick has been dealing with health issues and we are praying he can feel God’s healing hand in time.

We rejoice with Marshall Wulf, son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann, as he is ready to give his testimony on how God has changed his life.

We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben, Philadelphia, PA) as she mourns the loss of her mother, Sis. Jaunita Walter (Fairbury, IL).

**California, Los Angeles/Altadena**  
**Kali Sauder**

“…this do in remembrance of me. … For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.” 1 Cor. 11:24,26

The two-part purpose of our Holy Communion service held powerful meaning this year in light of all that’s happened since we last gathered to remember and proclaim. We remember Jesus’ love for us, his sacrifice, how God “spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,” Rom. 8:32. And we proclaim his death till he comes again. We are re-commissoned to proclaim the good news we’ve received:

“…how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” 1 Cor. 15:3-4

On the heels of this special occasion, we were also able to celebrate Easter with the familiar tradition of meeting early on Resurrection Morning on a mountaintop overlooking the city to sing and worship the risen Lord.

We held another Buy Nothing event in the church parking lot, gathering donations from both the church and local communities, organizing the items, and offering them for free to anyone who needed them over the course of a Saturday morning. Just like last fall, we were blown away to see God’s tangible provision as unique items were claimed with story
after story of needs being met. It was such a beautiful way to bless the community and point to the One who meets us all in our deepest needs.

Once again, we can gather inside church, and due to some recent upgrades, the sanctuary feels refreshed and renewed. We are so grateful and rejoice in God’s faithfulness in all circumstances as we continue to learn contentment whether abased or abounding, in want or in plenty.

California, San Diego
Sarah Fulop
April has always been my favorite month of the year. The whispers of winter are quieted by the endless chirping of blue jays and the fragrance of blossoming trees. In San Diego, locals are flocking to the beaches before the summer crowds steal all the parking spaces. Just like spring is a breath of fresh air, I trust all of us are feeling rejuvenated spiritually.

May the hope of Easter flood our souls and remind us that we are redeemed and beloved children of God. For those knee deep in seasons of pain, may you look to the cross and the promise that the victory has already been won. In the sermon on the mount Jesus reminds us:

"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?.. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:30,33

We are thankful that Andrew Grimm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber) and Brandon Petrovic (Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha) have sought the kingdom and will publicly committing their hearts to Jesus in a water baptism on May 2. Praise God that his mercies are endless, and his grace is sufficient to cover our every sin.

With the freshness of spring and continuous roll out of vaccines, San Diego’s COVID-19 restrictions are softening, and churches are free to open their doors as before. Praise God! We will be transitioning back to two services and lunch with continued precautions to ensure safety of our members and visitors. While the future is still uncertain, we are thankful to worship and eat corporately once again. We are also excited as Justin Michal will be returning from a two-month work transfer in Amman, Jordan.

More fellowship is on the horizon as we look forward to a beach gathering with our Altadena congregation. This next month, may we all strive to draw closer to Christ and stand secure in his unfathomable love.

Colorado, Denver
Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller
“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” Heb. 10:24

Our Denver church body has been blessed with extra fellowship in rotating potluck groups throughout March and April. It can take extra time and effort given the distance between many members’ homes, but this effort is always richly repaid in time together. The Sunday school held a special service on April 4 to celebrate Easter. We listened as the children told the story of Christ’s resurrection and enjoyed both congregational and student singing.

We said goodbye to Sis. Mallory Blunier this month, who has moved back to Princeville, IL after 5 years with us in Denver. We hope she will visit us often.

One of the ways in which we have been provoked to love and good works has been in the request by our trustees and ministers to honor our government and care for our weaker brethren by obeying the various governmental mandates regarding the pandemic. We are grateful to be returning to nearly normal functioning at this time and welcome all to come visit Colorado!

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider
We rejoice with Wade Luginbuhl (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Colleen) as he begins his repentance. We wish him much grace as he strives to seek out his soul’s salvation.

We extend our sympathy and support to Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler and their family circle in the passing of Michelle’s mom, Lorraine Behling (Richard). May God be their comfort in this time of loss.

Over the past month we have been blessed in the relaxing of our state’s COVID-19 restrictions
and we can now gather in much larger numbers. In mid-April, we were able to partake of a noon meal together for the first time in over a year. The routines we once took for granted now stir within us a surge of appreciation and thankfulness as we once again share a meal and spend sweet fellowship with those we love.

We look out of our windows, step outside, breathe in the fresh air, and observe the changing of the season from winter to spring all around us. Here in our Rockville congregation, we step inside our church pews, open our hearts doors, and we too observe the changing of the seasons of life. On Easter Sunday, our dear and beloved Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan ministered his last sermon as elder and minister of our local congregation. It is impossible to put into words, but we wish to thank him, his dear wife, Sis. Cheryl, and their children and grandchildren for the sacrifices and love given to each one of us throughout his service as our minister for the past thirty-eight years and as our shepherd for the past thirty years. Our hearts wish to extend the same blessing to him and his family as he shared and wished for each of us in his closing comments: “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.” (Traditional Irish Blessing)

We pray that God will continue to be with Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl, as he continues his duties and responsibilities in shepherding the Vermont congregation.

**District of Columbia, Washington**

*Henrietta Meyer*

We are still enjoying the Lord’s beautiful creation as we view the flowering trees and bushes of spring.

This month our visiting (virtual) ministers were Bro. Rick Kaisner (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Chad Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

As more and more folks get their COVID-19 vaccinations, we are starting to investigate locations for assembling in person. Lord willing, we will have news for you next month.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703.904.8301 or hmeyer2831@gmail.com for assistance, to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services and to find out if, when and where services are to be held.

**Florida, Fort Lauderdale**

*Renee Mangold*

We were blessed to have visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN); Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL); Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH). We appreciate their service and pray they will be blessed for it.

We are happy to announce that Ft. Lauderdale sermons are now on AC Central. When you simply can’t attend, it’s wonderful to tune out the world and hear God’s word from home, hospital, wherever you may be.

Bro. Kenny Baum led a kickoff meeting for our Friendship Report; a time of sharing, accountability and prayer to be more intentional about making friends and sharing the Gospel through those relationships. The Friendship Report is another outgrowth from our recent church assessment process.

Sis. Ilene Haefli, (Peoria, IL) passed away on April 12. Sis. Ilene, along with her late husband Bro. Bob Haefli, spent many winters as part of our Ft. Lauderdale church family. We have great memories of sweet fellowship with them and their children over the years. Our prayers for their family for comfort and peace during their time of loss. While we grieve when our loved ones pass, we rejoice that they are now with our heavenly father.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

*Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger*

We finished up our Ladies Winter Bible Study of Elijah. Together we saw that finishing well was Elijah’s greatest legacy, and we explored how to make that our legacy also. Our prayer would be that we develop perseverance...
and hold on to our faith regardless of our feelings or circumstances.

In April we gathered for a potluck to remember the years of ministry Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea Steffen gave to our faith family. He began his service in 1997, and has sacrificially served us through the years.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA), Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH), and Bro. Mike Kaisner (Sis. Mindy, Peoria, IL).

**Note of Thanks:**

For all the love, encouragement, gifts, and prayers shown us over the years of my ministry, we thank you from our hearts. The love and kindness poured out on us at the appreciation dinner was overwhelming. May God bless each one of you.

Marvin and Rhea Steffen

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**Florida, Sarasota**

**Sandra Kaeb**

"God sent his son, they called him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives
Because he lives
I can face tomorrow
Because he lives
All fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives
How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and

the joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because he lives
And then one day I’ll cross the river
I’ll fight life’s final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to vict’ry
I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know he reigns
Because he lives
I can face tomorrow
Because he lives
All fear is gone
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because he lives
Because He Lives, Written by William and Gloria Gaither

Slowly our winter residents are starting to return to their northern homes. The fellowship we had together will remain as a fond memory. We wish them a beautiful summer as we look forward to their return in the fall.

In the busyness and fast pace of our lives, it is good, at times, to get away. Several of our families went camping on March 19 and enjoyed God’s beautiful nature and quiet peacefulness.

We were blessed to have Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty OH.) and Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville OH.) share God’s word with us.

**Georgia, Peachtree City**

**Elise Funk, Brenda Stoller**

On Easter Sunday, we gathered around Lake McIntosh to enjoy the quiet of the morning as a church family. Over coffee and breakfast, we listened to the Sunday school children sing. Due to the pandemic canceling our sunrise service last year, this year’s Easter sunrise service tradition was long-awaited. It was a blessing to have Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) to share a Good Friday message with us.

On Easter Sunday, following our morning at Lake McIntosh, we returned to the church where Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) shared an Easter message with us.

We rejoice with Drew Waldbeser (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) in his marriage to Elizabeth Penland (Tom and Joy Penland) on April 3. May the Lord bless them as they serve him together!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Derek and Sis. Naomi Stoller and their little daughter Miriam and Bro. Rudy Steidinger as they spend the month of April serving the Lord in Brazil! We miss their presence here but are so thankful they have an opportunity to share their giftings there.

Like so many others, we had not shared Communion together as a church since 2019 due to the safety precautions surrounding the pandemic. This month, it was a privilege to share Communion as a church. Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), traveled here to help serve.

This summer we look forward to our third Center for Discipleship program! The Center for Discipleship (CFD) was started in 2019 out of a desire to
provide a place for Christians in the Apostolic Christian Church to come to a set apart place and take time to be intentional in their walk with the Lord. Discipleship has become a more popular word over the last few years, but it can be a little confusing. Is discipleship mentorship? Is it evangelism? Is it sanctification? Simply put, discipleship is being with someone learning to be like them. At the Peachtree Center for Discipleship, we want to bring you to Jesus himself in order to learn from him how to live your unique life in his “easy yoke.”

This summer, our CFD program is June 12 – July 9. The first week will be here in Peachtree City. We will spend the week together studying scripture, recognizing/breaking off fleshly thought processes or actions, praying fervently, hearing biblical teaching, and spending one-on-one time with Jesus. The next three weeks, we will all return to our normal lives of working, school, etc. However, we will continue to meet online and have video biblical teaching lessons to further guide us in incorporating the things we have learned back into our “everyday life.” If you or someone you know is 18 years or older and seeking a deeper walk with Jesus, we have spots still open for you to come join us this summer! For more information, please visit our website at peachtreeministries.com or find us on Facebook or Instagram at @peachtreeministries.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
RICK AND KOMARI ABERLE

Greetings in Jesus’ name from Bonne Fin.

We extend a thank you to Sis. Joan Schmidgall (Morris, MN) for her service to the hospital. Sis. Joan spent multiple months here at the hospital supporting the mission in many ways. She has returned home this past month.

For the first time in two years, we were able to partake of Communion as a body. Due to a variety of factors, our Communion services have been postponed for the past two years. We were so grateful to again remember the sacrifice and suffering of our Lord. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) was assisted by Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). The HarvestCall missionaries gathered in Cayes for this service and fellowship on Easter Sunday.

Bro. Rick Aberle traveled to the US for a short visit, and Sis. Komari Aberle and their daughter Selah were able to return with him for a couple weeks. Bro. Lucas and Sis. Raya Nussbaum also were able to visit the mission for a few days this past month.

We were also thankful to receive Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi Schneider (Junction, OH). Bro. Michael assisted with some work at the hospital and shared the word with us on one of our Wednesday evening services.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike and Susie Walder

Greetings from Les Cayes! The days of dusty roads are mostly behind us as the rainy season is here again. With the blessing of rain (and mud) came the blessing of Easter this year. It rained all day on Good Friday and then let up enough by Sunday that we could enjoy a sunrise service on the Child Care roof. God even joined in with a brief rainbow display! Many local missionaries and visitors enjoyed the special Easter morning of worship followed by breakfast and fellowship.

Making this time extra special were visitors among us. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) here. Bro. Marvin shared the Word during the sunrise service as well as when he served Communion to our HarvestCall group later in the morning. Bro. Jon brought a small maintenance team including Bro. Garth Maibach and his daughter Katrina (Sardis, OH), and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Christy Schrock (Tremont, IL).

We were thankful our Caribbean Director, Bro. Rick Wuethrich (Francesville, IN) came with the group, as did Sis. Susie Walder who returned after being in the U.S. for a few months.

For years several of our HarvestCall programs have worked under the umbrella of the Evangelical Baptist Mission of South Haiti (MEBSH). MEBSH has 488 churches and around
60,000 members. As usual the annual MEBSH church convention was recently held in our local town of Simon because their largest church is located here. All the families in town, as well as our Guest House, host visitors in order to accommodate the many thousands that attend. The local streets become like a fair or a street market with vendors of all sorts.

There are four long services Wednesday through Saturday and on Sunday morning there is a five-hour concluding service. The people don’t seem to have a problem with long services at all. They sit on hard wooden benches the whole time and they just love it. In contrast, we only went to one service and had to leave after a few hours, being stiff and sore and afraid we would go deaf!

**Illinois, Belvidere**

*Darcy Steffen*

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Cor. 15:58

As we read this chapter on a recent Wednesday night, I was especially struck by this verse. So often we get weary of continual service to others and our God, and instead we would rather serve ourselves. We are reminded of the beautiful promise that our labors on the Lord’s behalf are not in vain. Because we believe in the resurrection, we should continue abounding in the Lord’s work, knowing that in the end and even now, it will be and is worth it all.

The women in our congregation have been learning how to practically live this out. We started our next Bible study on the “one another”s” of the Bible. Our first topic was “Love One Another.” We appreciate this time we have together, growing closer to each other and learning how God would have us treat each other.

The men and boys also had the opportunity this month to meet for breakfast, fellowship, and a short devotion time. We are thankful for the opportunities to get together on a more regular basis again.

God has blessed two couples in our congregation with new grandchildren! We rejoice with Bro. Rich and Sis. Amy Hanson on the birth of their new grandson, Zion King Genin, born to Chris and Kaye Genin. Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller also welcomed a new granddaughter, Mabel Mueller. She was born to Tristan and Jenny Mueller, and she has spent the first weeks of her life in the hospital. Please pray for her, her family, and doctors, as they try to figure out why she can’t keep her food down.

**Illinois, Bloomington**

*Kinsey Dotterer, Lauren Zimmerman*

“...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:” John 11:25

Although the details of our sunrise service were still slightly different this year; we were so thankful to be able to be together as a church body for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It was also a blessing to be able to hear the Easter story from our Sunday school children.

We are so thankful we were able to join together as a church family to partake in Communion this past weekend. We are grateful for Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis Terri, Princeville, IL) who helped to serve Communion for us.

We mourn the loss of Sis. Nola Schrock (Bro. Mel), who passed away on Sunday, April 4. Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Mel and the entire family.

Lydia Zimmerman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Pam Zimmerman) is engaged to Evan Nestel of El Paso (Dallas and Nancy Nestel).

**Illinois, Bradford**

*Becky Endress, Lena Stoller*

“Thy anguish make us brave
To face distress and sorrow,
And in the throes of death
From Thy death strength to borrow;
O let the bond of love
Bind us in one accord
To crucify the flesh
And world through Thee, O Lord!”

Our Surety, Zion’s Harp #224
It was a blessing to gather for our Good Friday service with the Sunday school Easter Program afterwards. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) was our visiting minister. We heard the old story of Christ’s resurrection and how it should impact our lives throughout the year.

Sis. Jenna Ehnle (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Marissa Endress (Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie) gave their testimonies and were baptized on the weekend of April 10-11. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) was able to join us. We appreciated his willingness to serve us throughout the weekend. Being only a week after Easter, it was timely to be reminded of the need to love as Christ loved. With God’s grace and help, may we daily strive to fulfill our calling to love sacrificially.

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus with a Good Friday service, Easter sunrise service, and Sunday school Easter program. The program was entitled ‘Darkness Defeated’ and encouraged us again that he is risen and is indeed the light of the world!

We are grateful to Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) for visiting and sharing a wonderfully clear, concise, and precise gospel message. The good news is a deep well which no man can plumb, yet so simple that even a fool can come.

We welcome Sis. Whitney Streitmatter, who has made Champaign her home church. Sis. Whitney has contributed in many ways already as a part of our church family!

We were pleased to hear the engagement of our Bro. Joe Metz (Bro. Darren and Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL) to Sis. Claire Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold, Princeville, IL). We wish them all of God’s richest blessings as they forge a new life together.

Our UI young group has announced their new officers, including Bro. Dawson Finch, Sis. Grace Eisenmann, Bro. Clayton Hartter, and Bro. Alex Heinold. We wish grace and blessing upon all their efforts in event planning and leadership throughout the coming year.

The Champaign church is organizing a “Homecoming” event for families who were residents here between the late 1960’s and 1990. This is not a student reunion, but one for families (mostly those who had children in Sunday school) during those years. We are hoping to bring together those we do not see much and to give those who once attended together the opportunity to reconnect. All the planning is dependent on COVID-19 situations, but the date for this is the weekend of October 23-24, 2021. Contacts have already been made but the committee realizes there may be some who were missed. For more information, please contact Sis. Margie Heintz at heintzmargie@gmail.com or Sis. Pam Furrer at pamfurrer@comcast.net.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

We extend thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) for visiting and helping Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann with Communion. It was a blessing to gather together and share this special time once again. The events and challenges of the past year make times like this all the more precious.

We continue to enjoy the Guiding Principles Bible Study as we learn more about these important principles and how we can apply them in our lives. The small group discussions have been a great way to learn from and encourage one another in this pursuit.

Sis. Gladys Fisher moved to Indianapolis in April after 57 years in Chicago. We will miss her positive outlook and encouraging spirit very much, but we are happy for her as she settles in closer to family.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Denise Kaeb, Lou Ann Kaeb

What a blessing to begin our article with the news of new life! Westin and Maria Arseneau welcomed precious Garrett Todd into their lives on February 24! He is the grandson of Mark and Sis. Dinah Wilkening and Todd and Angie Arseneau. On March 12, a sweet daughter was added to the family of Kurt and Maria Redemacher and big
sister Kaelynn. They have named their bundle Kenzie Marie. Grandparents are Sis. Wanda and the late Bro. Bill Maul and Beth and the late Leon Rademacher. We rejoice with these couples that their babies have arrived safely and pray for wisdom to raise them!

Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) blessed our church with presenting a topical Bible presentation on the subject of Following Me. Thank you, Mark and Tammy, for serving our congregation in this way!

We want to thank our dear Sunday school students for presenting the Easter story to us in song! We want to thank Bro. Nathan Walder for sharing his thoughts to those attending.

In the same week, we were so encouraged by partaking of Communion. What a joy and inspiration the evening was. Helping our Elder Bro. Tom was Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL). Thank you, Harvey and Judy, for serving our congregation in this way!

On Easter Sunday, Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) and their family joined us and Bro. Josh shared the hope of an empty grave! It's always a blessing to have you home Josh and Tina!

As I think of Easter, I am reminded of a story I recently heard:

"The story is told of a fire in Yellowstone National Park. When a Forrest Ranger went to assess the damage, he discovered a bird that was lying dead, black and carbonized, at the bottom of a tree. It was a rather unnerving sight, so he pushed the bird over with a stick. Suddenly, three little chicks scurried out from under the wing of the dead mother. Because the mother had been willing to die, out of compassion for her chicks, the chicks under her wing had lived. So too with Jesus, our mother hen-he died to protect us."

The Bible in one Year with Nicky Gumbel.

Our dear Sis. Doris Knapp has changed her residence to Watseka Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. We will keep you in our prayers as you make this transition!

We were all blessed to share the weekend of Sis. Bonnie (daughter of Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock) and Bro. CJ Francisco as they gave their testimony of how God worked in their lives and then witnessed their baptism on Sunday. The sweetness of seeing their kindergarten and preschool age children stand at the edge of the baptismal to watch their parents’ baptism was priceless. We thank Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL). Your kindness and love was evident as you visited with these converts!

In all events of life, may we remember how Jesus wants to protect us by placing us under his wing!

**Illinois, Elgin**

*Amy Gasser*

On Saturday, March 20, we gathered for our Communion service. We thank Elder Bro. Scott Schaefer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for assisting Elder Bro. Dan Moser with Communion and for his services on Sunday. We also thank Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for coming to Elgin on a recent Sunday afternoon following the morning service at Highland Oaks.

"Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from
the dark domain,
And He lives forever with
His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!

**Illinois, Congerville**

*Mary Knapp, Krista Wieland*

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7 We rejoice with Reilly and Morgan Kieser (Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer) as they begin repenting. May they feel the love of their church family during this important time.

With joy, Bro. Evan and Sis. Elisabeth Zimmerman, along with big sisters Josie and Penny, welcome sweet Violet June into their hearts and home. Grandparents Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and Denny and Sis. Karen Leman (Roanoke, IL) are also thankful for the safe arrival.
Hallelujah! Christ arose!”
Christ Arose, Tabernacle Hymns #205

Our Sunday school students presented the Easter program on Sunday, March 28.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. We received word of the sudden passing of Bro. George Eason’s (Sis. Carole) mother, Stephanie Eason. Bro. George also lost his brother-in-law, Bob Deschler, recently.

Sis. Nola Schrock passed away on April 4. She was the wife of Bro. Mel Schrock, formerly of our Elgin congregation. Funeral services were held at the Bloomington, IL church. Bro. Mel has recently moved back to Elgin and is residing at Highland Oaks.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

As our eyes behold the beauty of springtime, it causes us to ponder just how beautiful heaven will be!

“We read of a place that’s called heaven,
It’s made for the pure and the free;
These truths in God’s word He hath given,
How beautiful heaven must be.

How beautiful heaven must be,
Sweet home of the happy and free;
Fair haven of rest for the weary,
How beautiful heaven must be.”
How Beautiful Heaven Must Be, Gospel Hymns, #79

May God bless the visiting ministers who shared the Word of God with us this past month. Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL) brought to us the story of Jesus and his triumphant entry on Palm Sunday. On Easter Sunday, we were thankful to have Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) spend the day with us. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) was able to help out at the early morning service as well.

On March 24, we were blessed to have our annual Easter program. We thank each student and teacher as well as our ministering Bro. Brad Stoller who gave the inspirational message, for recounting the story of Jesus’ victory over death and grave! Several evenings later, our congregation was thankful to share Holy Communion together. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Trent Meiss. Communion held a special meaning after a challenging year for each one of us.

We also appreciated the opportunity to labor together during our annual church housecleaning.

“We’ll learn and we’ll labor in cheerful accord,
And do what we can in the strength of the Lord.
O blessed is he, when the summer is gone,
Who harvests the fruit from good seed he has sown!”
Children’s Praise, Zion’s Harp #165

Illinois, Fairbury
Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger

We thank Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) for ministering the Word to us.

Our hearts hurt with the passing of Sis. Juanita Walter, yet we are thankful for the peace she had and the testimony that she was ready to meet her Lord. We continue to pray for her husband Bro. Jim and their children; Sis. Diane Koehl (Bro. Jim, Forrest, IL), Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Thadd (Sis. Molly, Gridley, IL), Sis. Jamil Luginbuhl (Bro. Adam, Philadelphia, PA). Bro. Adam and Elder Bro. Ben conducted Sis. Juanita’s funeral service. Our prayers are also with Sis. Rosetta Edelman (Bro. Walt), she is a sister to Jim.

Bro. Mark Bazzell (Sis. Tania) spent some time in the hospital. We pray for restored health for Bro. Mark as well as many others who struggle with illness.

Illinois, Forrest
Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” Luke 15:10

We are very thankful for two new converts: Warren Edelman (Sis. Cindy) and Zachary Kelson (Bro. Nate and Sis. Paula). We rejoice with them and pray that they can build on a firm foundation.

“Depart vain world, with all your sin!
From bondage I am free.”
A humble offering I bring;  
My heart I give to Thee!”  
The Covenant of Grace,  
Zion’s Harp #163

We appreciated the testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls on March 27-28 as they told of the bondage that held them and how their hearts were humbled with the Lord’s grace and forgiveness. We welcome Sis. Kylie Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Sis. Kelsey Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Sis. Andrea Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie) and Bro. Jacob Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen). We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) for helping with this special weekend.

On April 10-11 we were able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three more dear souls. They were Sis. Marissa Lanz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha), Bro. Remington and Bro. Reuben Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki). Sunday evening, we then gathered to partake of Holy Communion. Once again, we were reminded of the Lord’s love for us and the sacrifice of his shed blood. Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Marvin with this blessed weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Denny Fulop (Sis. Allison, San Diego, CA). We appreciate those who came and feed us from the Word of God and pray God will be their rich rewarmer.

On Good Friday, our Sunday school students shared the Easter story with us in song prior to our Good Friday worship service. How thankful we are that Jesus is living in Heaven, and we can have the hope of one day living in Heaven with him.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved ones this past month: Bro. Herb Bachtold (Sis. Jan), Sis. Gloria Drayer (Bro. Wayne) and Sis. Roberta Broquard (Bro. Wayne) in the loss of their sister-in-law, Shirlene Bachtold; Bro. Pete Walter (Larae), Bro. Duane Walter (Sis. Marlene) and Sis. Diane Koehl (Bro. Jim) in the loss of their sister-in-law, Sis. Juanita Walter (Bro. Jim, Fairbury, IL); and Sis. Esther Gerber and Sis. Ruth Metz in the loss of their brother-in-law, Laverne Johnson.

Our prayers are with Sis. Marge Waibel (Bro. Eldon) and Kinley Gudeman (Bro. Shannon and Sis. Brianna) as they have spent time in the hospital.

Illinois, Goodfield

Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

Springtime in the Midwest is such a wonderful time of the year! Everything is turning green, flowers blooming, and new birth is happening everywhere! Most importantly, it’s the time of year when we remember Jesus’ sacrifice at the cross and the hope that we have because of his resurrection!

On Sunday March 21, Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel) was put in as our Ordained Deacon. We were thankful to have three visiting elders there for support including: Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janel as they take on this new leadership role in shepherding our church.

We welcome new church members, Bro. Zach and Sis. Amelia Zobrist. On March 27 they shared their testimonies with our church family and on Sunday, we had a laying on of hands service for them. We are thankful for them and welcome their sweet family including their five children: Bayne, Major, Bethel, Scarlett, and Banning.

On Good Friday, we had our annual Communion service following our Good Friday service. Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm had the service with Bro. Jeff Wiegand assisting. It was very special to be united together and remember what our Lord and Savior did for us.

On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed a special sunrise service followed by an all-church breakfast! It was the first time our church family shared a meal since pre-COVID.

April 11 our church resumed it’s normal 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. worship services and began having lunch. We are thankful to be where we are at now. The Lord is faithful! We enjoyed having family hymn sing and pie night also that evening!

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose
under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;” Ecc. 3:1-2

We rejoice with Bro. Arlen and Sis. Marissa Edelman as they welcomed a new baby girl, Sloan Louise, born on March 28. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Maren. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville, IL).

We are sorry for the loss of Bro. Steve Rocke’s (Sis. Audrey) dad, Richard Rocke, who recently passed away. Our prayers are with their family during this time. Our prayers are also with Sis. Mae Kelley as she recently lost her only son. She is living in a nursing home and can definitely use the prayers!

Our Bro. Roy Roth went to be with the Lord on Monday April 5. He joined his wife, Sis. Corrine, in Heaven. What a victory! We are prayerful for the Roth family at this time including his eight children, six of which attend Goodfield: Jae Gerst (Mark, Mahomet, IL), Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike, dec.), Sis. Kenda Taufer (Bro. Ted), Sis. Krista Steffen (Bro. Brian, Gridley, IL), Sis. Shannon Roth, Bro. Shawn Roth, Sis. Kitty Herrmann (Bro. Ross), and Bro. Derek Roth (Sis. Joy).

Our dear friend Mark Friedrich is very thankful for the love and prayers he has felt from the Goodfield church. His heart surgery has been successful and he’s recovering at this time.

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Susie Wyss as she is awaiting open heart surgery and is currently in Phoenix, AZ. Please pray for her surgery to be a success and for her to be a clear reflection of Christ through this journey.

“Because he lives I can face tomorrow Because he lives All fear is gone Because I know he holds the future And life is worth the living Just because he lives” Because He Lives; by Bill and Gloria Gather

Illinois, Gridley

Perry Klopfenstein

We are happy to report the wedding engagement of Bro. Joe Lavallier to Sis. Heidi Edelman (Forrest, IL). Joe’s parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Janette Lavallier, and Heidi is the daughter of Warren and Sis. Cindy Edelman (Forrest, IL).

Likewise, it is a joy to report the wedding engagement of Bro. Joe Metz (Champaign, IL) to Sis. Claire Berchtold (Princeville, IL). Joe’s parents are Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz and Claire is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Leann Berchtold (Princeville, IL).

Four new souls were baptized on April 11 and are now our new brothers in faith: Bro. Elijah Cornell (Bro. Sean and Sis. Carla), Bro. Braedon Stoller (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope), Bro. Travis Gramm (Bro. George and Sis. Willow), and Bro. Jake Funk (Bro. Roger and Sis. Bonnie). We wish grace and strength to these newly baptized members of our church. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), was here for this occasion.

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Krista Steffen (Bro. Brian) over the loss of her father, Bro. Roy Roth (Goodfield, IL). Also, we express our sorrow to Sis. Barb Prevo, who lost her mother, Sis. Nola Gramm Schrock. May the Lord offer comfort to these loved ones.

Bro. Mark Lindberg (Sis. Laura, Chicago, IL) was our visiting minister of Good Friday evening. We appreciate his labors.

Porter Harvey Kaeb was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Shanna Kaeb. He has a brother, Leo. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb; and Dennis and Lorene Slagel of rural Fairbury.

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner

Hallelujah! Christ Arose!

As we celebrated Easter, we were inspired by the enthusiasm of those who brought us the Easter story in verse and song at the program “By HIS Stripes We Are Healed”.

We congratulate two dear couples who were united in Holy Matrimony. March 21 Bro. Scott Kieser and Sis. Arika Neust exchanged vows in Latty, OH. Their parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jane Kieser and Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Neust (Latty, OH). We wish them God’s blessings as they worship with the Latty congregation. March 28 was the wedding day for Bro. Cody Zeller and Sis. Alexa Fischer in Roanoke, IL. Their parents are Bro. Will and Sis. Dannelle Zeller and Bro. Kevin
and Sis. Annette Fischer (Roanoke, IL). We welcome Sis. Alexa into our Morton church family.

Two families are excited to have new babies to love. Timothy Alexander has joined the family of Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather Barth. His big brothers are Caleb, Silas, Daniel and Benjamin of Washington, IL. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth (Washington, IL). On April 2, first-time parents Bro. Nick and Sis. Sheryl Kaiser welcomed a daughter, Thea Kay. Her grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri Huber (Bloomington, IL).

We extend our deepest sympathy to three families who have laid a loved one to rest. On March 20 our Sis. Jean Anne Kaiser entered Heaven. She is survived by her dear husband, Bro. Harlan Kaiser and one son David Kaiser (Beth, Tremont, IL). Bro. William “Bill” Geyer leaves to mourn his passing a brother, Brad Geyer (Rochelle, Murfreesboro, TN) and a special aunt, our Sis. Joan Oberlander (Bro. John dec.). Sis. Doris Kuntz (Bro. Leon, Mediapolis, IA) will be sorely missed by her sister-in-law Sis. Barb Moser (Bro. Bob dec.) who worships with us.

March 27 our Young Group prepared a delicious pork chop dinner which we could pick up at the Fellowship Hall. What a treat. Then on Saturday, April 10 they were a blessing to a mission in Chicago where they unloaded more than a semi load of food from Midwest Food Bank, helped bag food and cleaned.

Our Bro. Jeremiah Psinas spoke at our April Family Worship Night on the topic “Jesus Says” – “Do You Believe?” We were reminded of the man who was born blind. When Jesus put the clay on his eyes and told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam, the blind man had the faith to not only believe IN God, but the faith to believe God would heal him if he did what Jesus told him to do. Most, if not all of us, may believe IN God, but we need to have faith to believe God will provide when he leads us on paths we don’t understand.

“O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!
Thro’ death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conquerors we are!
His word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.”

The Heavenly Vision,
The Tabernacle Hymns #7

The evening of April 14 we were so happy to hear the testimonies of Mike and Sandy Furkin. We are very thankful God has led them to our Morton church, and we welcome them as our brother and sister in Christ.

Illinois, Peoria

Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

With the beautiful spring weather, I am reminded of a Sunday school song. We have so many reasons to praise him!

“The birds upon the tree tops sing their song;
The angels chant their chorus all day long;
The flowers in the garden blend their hue;
So why shouldn’t I, why shouldn’t you praise him too?”
The Birds Upon the Tree Tops,
The Children's Harp #2

Easter Sunday was special since we could again gather this year for a special Easter breakfast at church, followed by the Sunday school program, and held the annual canned goods collection. Communion was held the following week, served by our Elder Bro. Tim Funk and newly ordained deacon Bro. Craig Stickling.

“He bows His head and cries,
’Tis finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul.
Life’s victory is won.”
The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross, Zion’s Harp, #89.

We rejoice with a newly-engaged couple. Sis. Sadie Rumbold (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Heather) is engaged to marry Bro. Colton Yergler (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Mindy, Bluffton North, IN).

“When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.”
The Union of Hearts,
Zion’s Harp, #79.


“Little children, little children
Who love their redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and his own.”
Jewels, Gospel Hymns #638.

Several souls have won their earthly race to join the Lord in heaven. Sis. Ardith Herrmann (late Bro. Harold) passed away and was the mother of Derek (Patrice), Sis. Holly Ramseyer (Bro. Dean) and Sis. Faith Carlson (Bro. Jim). Surviving siblings include Bro. Willis Hunziker (Sis. Gloria), Sis. Mardell Plattner (Bro. Melvin) and sister-in-law Carol Stoecker (Larry). Sis. Ilene Haefli (late Bro. Bob) passed away and was the mother of Terry Bowen, Bro. Eric (Sis. Katrine, Bloomington, IL), Sis. Jeanne Esterling (Bro. Tim), Nancy Ritter (Neil) and Linda Hoerr (Bill). Surviving is a sister-in-law, Sis. Gladys Haefli. The presence of these two matriarchs of faith will be greatly missed in our church family. Sis. LuEllen Schafer said goodbye to her brother, James Schafer. We pray for comfort for these three dear families.

“How happy when relieved we’ll be,
From toils and cares of mind,
And in that holy land so free
Eternal rest we’ll find,
Eternal rest we’ll find.”
The Holy Land, Hymns of Zion, #224.

Our ministers have kicked off a series of messages about the end times and biblical prophecy entitled, Are We Living in the Last Days? The end of the ages should be the driving force in our lives!

“When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah! what a Savior!”
Hallelujah, What a Savior, Tabernacle Hymns, #257

Illinois, Princeville
Ruth Herrmann, Cherie White

“Low in the grave He lay—
Jesus, my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day—Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign…”
Christ Arose, Gospel Hymns, #323

The most joyful day of the whole year is Easter Sunday. Our Lord, triumphant over all, gives us hope. We enjoyed hearing the resurrection message given by our Sunday school students when they shared with us through song at the Easter Program, Sunday, March 28.

We were so blessed the evening of March 27 when we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Craig Martin in this labor of love.

We rejoice with Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin as their son, Peyton Martin, has been baptized at Washington, IL church. May God provide guidance and further direction for Bro. Peyton in his future plans.

At our April Family Hymn Sing, Bro. Todd and Sis. Zoe Stoller from Magdalena, MX had a presentation on Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE). It was good to be reminded of our church ministries and remember to pray for those who have been sent to serve in this capacity. We also were happy to see Sis. Myca Steffen spending some time in the U.S. with family and loved ones. May God continue to bless their ministry wherever they are and to remember that each one of us whether far or near have our own mission field to labor in.

“When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united…”
The Union of Hearts,
Zion’s Harp, #79

May God’s blessings be upon Bro. Clayton Blunier (Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri) and Sis. Dominique Braun-Lasnier (Paul Lasnier and Sarah Braun) as they were wed on March 27 in Denver, CO. As they establish a new family unit, may they feel his nearness and direction in all future decisions.

We pray God’s healing hand be upon our loved ones that have had surgery or have been sick: Hank Bowdoin (Benola), Bro. Rolland Joos (Sis. Linda), Sis. Marie Menold, Bro. Gale Stoller (Sis. Sonia) and Sis. Gladys Martin (Bro. Ed). We apologize it wasn’t mentioned earlier but Bro. Stacey Mueller (Tonda) had broken his leg. We sure do miss seeing all of them!

We will miss Bro. Vernie Berchtold as he has moved to Apostolic Christian Skylines. May he soon feel “at home” as he makes this change. We likewise will miss seeing Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller as they no longer reside in the Princeville area. May they reflect God’s light in the Bloomington, IL and Sarasota, FL churches and we look forward to times when they come back to visit us.

Illinois, Roanoke

Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

“O mother, when I think of thee,
’Tis but a step to Calvary;
Thy gentle hand upon my brow
Is leading me to Jesus now.”
Memories of Mother,
Tabernacle Hymns, #294

Praise God if you had/have a loving, godly mother, who pointed you to Jesus! Such a gift! I thank God I had that kind of a mom.


Sis. Alexa Fischer (Bro Kevin and Sis. Annette) was married to Bro. Cody Zeller (Bro. Will and Sis. Danelle, Morton, IL) on March 28. Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) encouraged Bro. Cody and Sis. Alexa, and all married couples, to model the sacrificial, serving love of Christ in our marriages. Kaylea Blunier (Bro. Ray and Sis. Wendy) is engaged to Tyler Dedrick of Chicago, IL. May the Lord richly bless both of these young couples.

We partook of Holy Communion on March 28. Elder Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) was here to help serve us.

Helping Hands Family night was held March 31. Our church family made 2000 Sunday school bags to be sent to Renault and 50 SEED bags.

It brought great joy to our hearts to hear the children of our church sing about our risen Lord in the Sunday school Easter program held Easter Sunday. Elder Bro. James Fehr was with us again.

Brothers and friends from Roanoke and Eureka churches worked together for the annual cemetery cleanup on April 3.

We are thankful that Samantha Bertschi (Bro. Sam and Sis. Marjorie) has begun her walk with the Lord.

On April 11, Bro. Dan Leman (Sis. Tess, Denver, CO) was our visiting minister. In a Bible study “Our Church, Our Community” Elder Bro. Frank Sauder encouraged us to appreciate the many contributions that each church has made to our community.

On April 14, we had an exhortation on seeking a minister.

We bid farewell to Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman and their family who plan to return to Papau New Guinea where Bro. Fred serves as a missionary helicopter pilot. May the Lord bless their work.

Pray for Jason Tibbs, Bro. Rol Rumbold (Sis. Carol), Bro. Les Luginbuhl (Sis. Judy), Bro. Rich Isaia, Sis. Jan Getz and Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb), who are dealing with health challenges. We praise God for Bro. Dave’s good scans and thank you for your prayers.

Note of Thanks:
To all our prayer warriors across the states... we cannot sufficiently thank you for praying for Rol during our unexpected detour on the way home from Florida. Your prayers were truly our nourishment during those weeks. May God bless each one of you for taking the time to intercede for us!

In Christ, Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold

Illinois, Tremont

Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.” 1 Cor 11:26
As we remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we were blessed to be able to partake in Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. James Fehr and retired Elder Bro. Steve Sauder in serving Communion.

As church starts to return to normal, we are thankful that Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) were able to visit and minister the Word to us. We thank Bro. Jeff for helping Bro. James with the testimonies and baptisms of three new brothers in Christ: Bro. Justus Koch (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sandi), Bro. Carl Sauder (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna), and Bro. Adam Sauder (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jenni).

We rejoice with Bro. Michael Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Shannon Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne, Forrest, IL) as they announced their engagement. We are also rejoicing with two families who have welcomed new babies this month. Bro. Josh, Sis. Nicole, Arianna, and Isabelle Bolliger welcomed Olivia Jane into their family. Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha Koch and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger are Olivia’s grandparents. Sis. Anne Zuercher welcomed her first grandchild, Remington Curtis, born to Seth Zuercher and Mallory Hoffman.

Our prayers are with Bro. Elmon Koch (Sis. Janice) as he was in the hospital and has since transitioned to hospice care. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sandy Johnson’s family including her twin Cindy Miller (Bro. Dick), at her passing. Sandy was the foster daughter of Bro. Emil and Sis. Wilma Aberle (both deceased) and attended church with them for many years. Bro. Bruce Schafer (Sis. Lauretta) mourns the passing of his brother, James Schafer (Glascold, IL) and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Bro. John) said farewell to her sister-in-law, Sis. Doris Kuntz (Mediapolis, IA). We pray that they each can feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit as they grieve.

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lillian Pfaffmann**

The weekend of our Lord’s crucifixion and resurrection, Peyton Martin gave his testimony and was baptized on Easter Sunday. What an impressive time to dedicate one’s life to serving his Savior!

Sis. Jan Sigafus is presently hospitalized with pneumonia. It’s so difficult these days not to have visitors stop by or sit at the bedside to show their love and support! May she feel the comforting presence and healing hand of the Lord and the prayers of all of us!

We have been blessed to have Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) with us a couple of Sundays, preaching by inspiration of the Spirit! Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) came last Sunday afternoon to share with us scripture directives on selecting an ordained deacon for Washington church. It was thought-provoking and sound teaching on how to proceed with this process, and now we need to submit to God’s direction! May God bless them all for their labors on our behalf!

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen**

“Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter;
I am the clay
Mould me and make me
After Thy will,
While I am waiting,
Yielded and still.”

I remember, as a little girl, hearing most prayers ended with “thy will be done”. It was a special reminder to us, that as we poured out our hearts and desires to our Heavenly Father, we acknowledged that he knew best and that we desired to submit to his will. Sometimes I seek my own will more than his, but it’s a faith exercise to work to get to the place where I can finish my prayers with “thy will be done”. What a sweet surrender!

We praise God for calling three more souls to him! Nora Ringger (Bro. Jameson and Sis. Sheena) and Ethan and Whitney Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb) began their repentance.

We continue to lift up in prayer Bro. Aaron and Sis. Cassie Gerber and their families as he starts another round of chemo.

Good Friday services included our Sunday school Easter program. It was an extra special way to remember our Lord’s death and resurrection!
Bro. Adam Neust (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula, Latty, OH) married Sis. Beth Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma, Toledo, OH). We pray that God will continue to guide them as they begin their life together! We appreciated Elder Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) and Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) being with us on that special day.

Bro. Alec and Sis. Dana Schneider have moved to Francesville, IN. We know that God goes with them and that they will be a blessing to our Francesville church.

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Hold o'er my being Absolute sway! Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see Christ only, always, Living in me!"

Have Thine Own Way, Lord, Hymns of Zion, # 113

Indiana, Bluffton North
Deanna Brinneman, Rhonda Maller

“Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.” Acts 1:22

On March 21, the Bluffton North congregation was blessed to witness the ordination of Co-Elder Bro. Dan Pfister. Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), and Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) assisted in the service. We continue to hold up Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry in prayer as they begin this new part of God’s ministry.

Sis. Bonnie Gerber recently had surgery and is now undergoing rehab and therapy. Prayers for her healing are requested.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Jadon and Sis. Tundy Rauch in the loss of her father, Janos Namenyi. She was able to be in Hungary with her family when he passed.

"And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded:" 2 Chron. 29:28

We are so thankful for our Sunday school students and their teachers. The congregation was blessed by the Easter program on April 4. We enjoyed their enthusiasm in praising our risen Savior.

Our 2-12 grade students also enjoyed a Sunday school party on April 11. We do not take for granted the privilege of being able to gather together in his name.

"Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun,…” Eccl. 9:9

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Laura Beeks in the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Payton, to Bro. Tanner Bowen. Tanner’s parents are Mike and Sharice (Ossian, IN). Bro. Shawn and Sis. Mindy Yergler are also pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Colton to Sis. Sadie Rumbold (Peoria, IL). Sadie’s parents are Bro. Gregg and Sis. Heather Rumbold (Peoria, IL). We look forward to these two weddings this summer!

Many blessings to all from Bluffton North.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

The week before Easter, a visiting brother’s prayer asked that our focus would be on the cross, not on the happenings around us. We were blessed with an inspiring Easter weekend, beginning with 24 hours of prayer before Good Friday service and Communion (there was a sign-up sheet for ½ hour time segments to commit to prayer) and culminating on Easter Sunday with a beautiful Sunrise service at the Fellowship Center and an Easter morning service at church, followed with precious Sunday school children sharing verses and songs about the hope we have because of Jesus!

We have been blessed with visiting ministers and wish to thank Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) for sharing God’s word with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt, as Bro. Wayne has an upcoming surgery. We pray that all goes well and that they feel the continued presence and peace of Jesus.

We welcome Bro. Alec and Sis. Dana Schneider who recently moved into the area and are attending church in Francesville. It is such a blessing to have them with us!
Recently our dear Bro. Mark, Sis. Lynne Wuethrich and their son, Bro. Nicholas, moved to West Lafayette, and we miss their cheerful smiles and kindness! We received a note from them, thanking the church for their love as Bro. Nicholas has recently moved to Lifepoints in Morton, IL. We pray for God’s blessings on Bro. Nicholas, and on Bro. Mark and Sis Lynne in this transition time.

On a recent Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman shared some of the many areas of interest that the church has, which the Elder Body has oversight of. It was an interesting evening and opened our eyes to the many ways God is working through his people. We pray for God’s continued guidance and blessing.

Note of Thanks

Bro. Robert (Bob) and Sis. Phyllis Wuethrich wish to thank everyone for all the kind cards and gestures of love as they celebrated their 70th Anniversary. They have missed seeing everyone in person but feel your love. We, as a church, appreciate their wonderful, loving examples of faith!

Indiana, Indianapolis

Edie Bollier

“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” Luke 24:6-7

What a wonderful truth, that Jesus is risen and it was all prophesied beforehand! During our Easter program we heard of many of the prophesies of Jesus crucifixion and resurrection. It is always a faith builder to be reminded of these things and how important they are to our faith. For without the resurrection, our faith would be vain, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15, as he provided much evidence of the resurrection.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed to have Bro. Kent Levy (Sis. Holly, Morton, IL) with us to bring the Easter message. Kent grew up in Indianapolis, so it was special to have him back home. Another blessing has been the addition of a second service as an adult Sunday school where we have been studying the characteristics of a disciple of Jesus. Also, with the addition of the second service we have added our lunch hour which has been a wonderful time of fellowship that has been missed.

Our ministry team has finished our study of the Sermon on the Mount and begun a study of 1 John. Our Wednesday evening Bible Studies have been centered on Discipleship and the Spiritual Disciplines. We are thankful for Jesus’ perfect example of faithfulness to the Father.

Indiana, LaCrosse

Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!”

Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!”

Christ, The Lord, is Risen Today, Hymns of Zion, #102

Greetings to all in the name of our risen Savior Jesus Christ!

As we have come through the blessed Easter season, we had the opportunity for our Sunday school children to tell us the beloved story through verse and song. It is always a pleasure to watch their joyful faces as they tell us all the Lord has done for us!

We have had the blessing of many visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) all shared the wonderful and living Word with us.

Our prayers are with Kyler Gudeman (Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole), as he recently had surgery.

Indiana, Leo

Jan Beer

Welcome to Nora Rose Williamson. She was born March 24 to Bro. Brock and Sis. Lydia Williamson. Bristol is now a big sister. Grateful grandparents in our congregation are Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy Williamson, along with great-grandma, Sis. Christine Locher.

Wednesday evening, March 24, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz presented information from the Mid-winter Elder Conference. Our thanks to
the Congerville congregation for hosting it, and to the Goodfield congregation for the use of their Fellowship Center. It is reassuring to see that our denomination has been able to adapt to pandemic circumstances, while continuing to hold fast to the doctrine that is built on the truth of God’s Holy Word.

Jacob Sukup, (Bro. Steve and Sis. Chris) and Bella Wenninger, (Bro. Brian and Sis. Mackenzie), have made public their faith in the saving blood of Jesus Christ and their desire to walk in fellowship with us in the Apostolic Christian Church. We rejoice with these two young people and their families. We look forward to hearing their personal testimony and witnessing their baptism.

With all the cancellations and changes due to COVID-19, we were especially grateful to be able to take Communion on Wednesday evening, March 31, then attend Good Friday worship service on Friday evening. Easter morning it was a blessing to glorify our risen Savior with a Sunrise Service. After a light breakfast together, we again assembled for our church service to hear God’s word, and praise, honor, glorify and thank God, the Father, for the resurrection of Jesus.

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristi Reinhard’s son, Silas, was one year old on April 7, a miracle! He was born prematurely with a very low birth weight and some medical issues. The entire family, including his big sisters, Addilyn and Avonlea, have been in quarantine for most of the year to protect his health. To celebrate Silas’ big day, and to introduce him to us, the Reinhards invited us to meet them on the outside of their large living room picture window as they all stayed inside! What a joy to finally meet this beautiful little boy with big blue eyes and a smile on his face, yet attached to tubing. It was an additional joy to be able to see the smiling faces of the rest of the family, too. Yes, absence does make the heart grow fonder. Our prayers continue for this little one and his precious family. We look forward to the time when Silas’s health will allow all of them to assemble with us again. May God be praised for his faithfulness.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended to our church leaders, local and national, as they find a way through the COVID-19 disruption to our new normal. At Leo, we are still having worship services on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and Sunday school has been changed to being held during the first service. A light refreshment, with coffee and drinks, is being served between the two services, but we hope to begin regular lunch hour soon. A section has been set aside in the assembly room for those who want to wear a mask and prefer social distancing. Otherwise, seating is back to normal. Another reminder that we are approaching normalcy is that nursery care is again being provided for the first service. Gratefully, we have been able to maintain our acapella singing throughout this siege, and its beauty seems like our musical, loving tribute to our Father for his grace, mercy and faithfulness through it all.

Another sign of returning to former ways is the blessing of having visitors in church! On April 11, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) served us God’s Word from the pulpit. Thank you, Justin and Marcia, for blessing us. To all, now that travel restrictions are lifted, please feel free to visit us in Leo. We would welcome your fellowship as we worship our great God.

As I finish this report on April 20 in Grabill, IN, a rainy day has turned into a snowy day! The snow is accumulating on the leaves of trees and newly flowered plants. This is not our “normal” weather pattern, but it is a visual reminder that God is God and he is in control. Aren’t you glad he is!

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Program put on by the Sunday school this past month as they shared the simple Gospel message with us. Life can be so complicated at times, and yet as Jesus reminds us in his word, we are to be childlike in our faith and beliefs. They plainly told the story from Creation to when he arose from the tomb on that third day victorious over death. Praise God for the hope we have every day because Jesus LIVES!

Bro. Mark Reinhard (Sis. Angie, Bluffton, IN) ministered to us this past month. We are
thankful for his willingness to serve when they visit. We are especially grateful that prayers were answered and after a short hospital stay, Bro. Rich Schlipf (Sis. Kathy), is back home and in good health. Wishing you all abundant peace that only God can give in the coming month!

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) on the pulpit as they were visiting their son, Bro. Josh. We hope you felt the love of our Remington church and will visit again soon.

Our Topical Bible Study was “Surrendering the Kingdom.” Comparing the Kingdom of the World/Kingdom of God by Bro. Dick Meister from West Lafayette, IN. He has spent several years reading and studying this topic. We are aware how Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, and we are tempted daily with things of this world. He reminded us that we, as Christians, need to be in the world, not of the world. An example: there are too many tares in the world, and we need not be a part of it.

Our Sunday school children provided a wonderful Easter program singing songs and reciting their pieces of praise, rejoicing that Jesus, our Savior, is risen. I received an Easter card that said: “Jesus: He is risen, He is Lord, He is loved, He is adored, He is Christ, He is Our King, He is Easter, He is spring – As He gave His life out of love for us, may we live each day out of love for Him.”

We had two emergency appendectomies this month which is rare in itself: Boden Putt (Bro. Joel and Sis. Wendy) and Sis. Jenni Honegger (Bro. Loren). We pray for God’s healing, as only He can do, and so thankful for amazing doctors and nurses who provide the experience and knowledge to care for our needs in these situations.

Mother’s Day will have come and gone by the time you read this. Aren’t we so thankful to have or have had Godly mothers who raised us to know and love Jesus? They say, “a mother’s work is never done.” We can say the same for Jesus. He is calling souls daily to come walk with him, learn of him, trust him, praise him. God’s love for us is more powerful than a mother’s love. As a mother, we wonder how that is possible, but we know it is true.

Indiana, South Bend

Joshua Martinez

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.” Psalms 4:8

Christy Langhofer (Bro. Craig and Sis. Rachel) has declared she has peace and we all look forward to her testimony and baptism in the near future! We thank Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) for blessing us with a Good Friday message from the pulpit. On Easter Sunday, our Sunday school youth shared the story of our Savior’s life, death and resurrection though scripture and beautiful songs. The program was followed by a wonderful Easter brunch. We thank all for contributing and Sis. Jessica Isch (Bro. Jason) for coordinating the meal.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13

Indiana, West Lafayette

Abbie Gramm

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; and the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.” James 5:11.

In the midst of our external challenges and internal world, which is sometimes painful, may we learn to rest in Jesus, quieting our souls and minds. May we remember him and the truth of who he is, just as we were reminded of what he has done for us as we celebrated Easter. We gathered for a special breakfast prior to a service and an Easter Program by the Sunday school as well as an adult choral group.

We welcomed Lydia Jane, second child of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Janessa Warren. We also will soon be bidding farewell to Bro. Troy and Sis. Alexa Fiechter and family as they will be moving back to the Bluffton area. Special thanks to visiting ministers for our midweek services: Bro. Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN).
Indiana, Wolcott

**Brittany Gerber, Luann Gerber**

Our church family is ringing the bells of heaven as Naomi Drayer has given her heart to the Lord and desires to live the rest of her life for Him! She is the daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany. We are also rejoicing with Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler as their daughter Nanci has surrendered her heart also! Adam Blume started his repentance last week and we are so thankful for him and his parents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Erica. We, as a church family can feel the Spirit working and are so thankful. Praise God!!

March 20-21 was the weekend for the testimony and baptism of our dear Erin Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jody). Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) and Erin’s grandpa Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) were here for this blessed weekend. While watching everyone greet Sis. Erin after her baptism, it reminds us of the blessed reunion we will have when we all get to heaven!

Bro. Dana Neiman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) was here to help our Bro. Jeff Bahler on the pulpit. We thank him for his labor of love.

A beautiful evening was spent on Good Friday for our Easter program. From the 4 year old children who sang from the bottom of their hearts to the oldest brother in our church who read Scripture that evening, we could feel the Holy Spirit among us! The smiles on the faces of our Sunday school children singing was a blessing beyond measure!

Iowa, Bloomfield

**Kendra Wettstein**

Our prayers have been with Erica Wuthrich (Brent) as she has been dealing with some health issues. May God be near her in the coming days. Also, in our prayers are both Bro. Harold and Sis. MaryJane Knapp as they are dealing with infirmities of the flesh. Bro. Joel Wuthrich continues to be in our prayers as he nears his eternal reward.

For all who wish to know, the following is Sis. Wilma Teubel’s new address: #2 Pennsylvania Place Apt. A15 Ottumwa, IA 52501.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) and family with us to preach the Word. May God bless his efforts.

This Mother’s day, may we all be thankful for our mothers who nurtured and taught us the true way. May God bless them.

**Note of thanks:**

Thanks to all of those who remembered us with cards, calls, etc. as we celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary.

– Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger

Iowa, Burlington

**Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner**

This morning as I pause to ponder the various happenings of our church family this past month as well as the many current needs of souls all around, it causes a deep thankfulness for the omnipresence and omnipotence of our great God! In the 1828 Webster dictionary, omnipresent means “present in all places at the same time” and omnipotent means “almighty, possessing unlimited power.” This provides such a foundation for us to place our trust on as life continues to unfold before us!

We rejoice with Bro. Jake and Sis. Rachel Wyss as they welcome a second little girl to their small family. Liezel is now a big sister to Katrina Kae, born March 21. Excited grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss (Washington, IL) and Bro. David and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA). May God grant them wisdom as they raise their young daughters.

This month was special for our church family as we came together to hear the results of our balloting. We give our love and support to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy Massner and their family as they prepare to take on the responsibility as our deacon. We are grateful to God that he was with us and provided clear direction. We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for assisting in this process.

Also unifying for our church family was the night of Holy Communion, shared with Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) and ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA.) We also thank these brothers for serving and partaking in our sacred remembrance of the great price that was given for us.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Elizabeth Schumacher as they celebrated 60 years of marriage.
together! On a Sunday afternoon, Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz kindly hosted an open house reception in their honor. Not long after their event, we heard the sad news that Bro. Mike was hospitalized with an unknown mass detected on his lung. In times like these, we are thankful for the omnipresence of God that can strengthen and comfort us daily. We will continue to lift this dear couple up in prayer, as well as their caregiving son, Bro. Mike Jr., as they walk the road ahead.

We appreciated the various visitors we’ve had this past month and thank them for making the effort to travel! Anyone is always welcome to join us in worship.

For those who may call-in to Burlington services, we want to bring to your attention that we have a new call-in number which is 732.434.3313, or 844.875.2222 (toll-free).

May we walk onward, resting in the omnipotence of an almighty God to care for every detail of our lives!

**Iowa, Elgin**

*Maria Rocke*

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” Romans 8:1

It was a blessing to gather for Holy Communion; to be reminded of Christ’s love in his sacrifice and the freedom we have in him. Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) made the effort to be with us. Also visiting was Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). May God bless these brothers for their labors in ministering to our souls.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, Ava Schupbach (Bro. Kent and Sis. Katie) and Bahlor Getz (Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty). We wish them God’s blessings as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Prov. 3:5-6

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

*Laura Funk*

There is a saying about southern Iowa. If you don’t like the weather today, come back tomorrow! We are experiencing weather fluctuations. We have enjoyed beautiful, warm, sunny days; and cold, snowy, windy days. There is beauty in each of God’s weather patterns if we are looking.

I have been privileged to spend several days visiting with my dad who is on Hospice care. He spent many years operating heavy equipment and being outdoors. I have learned a lot about nature and God’s creation from my dad, many facts I had never stopped to consider. Too busy!

“Each little flow’r that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.”

_CREATION, HYMNS OF ZION #207_

The COVID-19 restrictions for the state of Iowa have eased some. We have enjoyed visiting ministers this past month; Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS), Bro. Rom Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA). God bless you for sharing God’s message with us.

We are rejoicing with our converts Joel and Olivia Funk who have sought the Lord in repentance. Parents include Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch (Bloomfield, IA).

**Iowa, Iowa City**

*Diana Butikofer*

Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) visited (one virtually and one in person) and shared God’s Word with us recently. We appreciate their willingness to be used and trust the Lord will bless them.

God has given us the blessing of parents and we are especially thankful when we have God-fearing parents who teach us about the Lord and His goodness. We pray our heavenly Father will teach us and give us wisdom to guide our children.

**Iowa, Lester**

*Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler*

Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR) brought forth the Word on Palm Sunday. That same day the Sunday school Easter program was held. The students told the story of Christ’s death and resurrection through verse and song. Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis.
Heidi, Eureka, IL) ministered to us on Good Friday and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN) was with us on Easter.

The thought was expressed how can we not be humble when we ponder what the Lord has done for us? We were thankful to be able to partake of Holy Communion again.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) traveling to assist Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue). We were blessed by these special occasions the past several weekends.

Bro. Collin Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR) was baptized in Silverton. We welcome Bro. Collin back to Lester where he has been residing the past several months. May he feel God’s continued guidance. We are happy to have Oren Getz and Silas Getz (Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) spend some Sundays here when their work is in this area.

We are also glad to see more loved ones in attendance after many months of limited contact. We are making progress in returning to more normal practices.

A reminder was made that the ship of faith is still afloat, and we should sail forward to our final goal.

**Iowa, Mediapolis**

**Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz**

Our congregation has been praying for God’s direction in selecting an ordained deacon to help our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall. We believe God has called Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami) to fulfill this role. We are all praying for Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami and their family as they adjust to this new responsibility! We also pray for our church congregation, that as we grow and change, our love for Jesus and for one another will grow all the more. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) for helping us in this process.

Bro. David and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach welcome another granddaughter into their family circle. Bro. Jake and Sis. Rachel Wyss (Burlington, IA) are the parents of Katrina Ka. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) came to assist with Holy Communion. It is truly a sacred privilege to have the opportunity to remember our Lord Jesus’s death each year with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a tradition in our congregation to end this special evening by standing and singing “We Will Remember Thee”, the last song in the Hymns of Zion.

We have said goodbye to two dear sisters in our congregation in the last month. We will truly miss their presence in our midst. Sis. Barb Massner (Bro. Virgil, dec) died on March 19. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall (Bro. Rob, Morris, MN), Todd (Kim, Morris, MN), Bro. Troy (Sis. Joni), and Taylor, her grandchildren, and sisters, Sis. Ada Massner (Bro. Earl, dec), Sis. Bertha Lee Massner (Bro. Doss, dec), Sis. Dolores Anliker (Bro. Dan), and Sis. Teresa Marti (Bro. Ervin, dec).

On Easter Sunday, we were so sorry to learn of the unexpected passing of our Sis. Doris Kuntz. We pray God will comfort her husband, Bro. Leon.

We are praying for Bro. Bill, Sis. Vienna, and Russell Massner, as their precious little Lillian Marie died in the womb and is now with Jesus, awaiting them in heaven.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Sean and Sis. Valerie Gray and family in the passing of Bro. Sean’s father, Donnie Gray. Our heart goes out to Bro. Sean, as he has had to say goodbye to both parents in the past year.

We want to thank Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA) for ministering the Word to our congregation this past month.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isa. 26:3

In all the ups and downs of life, what a privilege that God walks beside us and helps us. Let’s keep our heart and mind turned towards him!

**Iowa, West Bend**

**Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt**

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt in the passing of Kelly’s mother, Lois Messner of Gaylord, MN.

We’re thankful to welcome Bro. Lincoln Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora) into our church family. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Rod
Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) with us for Lincoln’s testimony and baptism. On Sunday evening, we shared a special time together in partaking of Holy Communion. We again thank Elder Bro. Rod for his many labors throughout the weekend and appreciated having our retired Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm assist Bro. Rod during Communion.

We enjoyed having Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL) here and sharing God’s word with us. We were reminded that God has placed us all right where we are for his purpose and were encouraged in the use of our time, whether that’s in service for others or spending extra time in prayer and meditation.

We wish many blessings to Bro. Nolan and Sis. Kiara Grimm on the birth of their daughter, Ryan Mae. She joined their lives on April 18. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jordon and Sis. Ann Grimm and Bro. Jason and Sis. Collette Snook (Silverton, OR).

Another school year is drawing to a close. Those graduating from high school this year include: Briley Banwart (Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami), Julia Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer), Monika Fehr (Bro. Kent and Sis. Joleen), Rachel Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora), Creytan Grimm (Bro. Jordon and Sis. Ann), Sis. Abigail Messner (Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel), Levi Mogler (Lynn Mogler and Amy Mogler), Jenna Montag (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Larae), Jared Schmidt (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen), Lane Schmidt (Bro. Neil and Sis. Angela), and Leandra Schupbach (Bro. Gregory and Sis. Gwen). We pray God will guide them in all their future plans.

Japan, Shioda & Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Carrie Ito, Rachel Witzig

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Rom.15:13

Along with the beautiful spring cherry blossoms came the blessing of Easter, our eternal hope, this month. While Easter is not widely celebrated in Japan, the Lord provided our congregation in Tokyo with the opportunity to gather twice to celebrate. On March 30, many of the English students and Sunday school children participated in a “tanoshimikai,” or a celebratory gathering, to dye Easter eggs, sing Easter songs, and hear the Easter story. For some, it was the first time they heard about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The following Sunday, on Easter, both churches were blessed to celebrate Easter in Shioda and Tokyo. In Tokyo, the students enjoyed singing, acting in a skit, and reciting Bible verses for Easter, followed by an Easter egg hunt. We pray and have hope that the Lord will continue to touch their hearts with his truth.

Also in April, those of us in Tokyo enjoyed the monthly ladies’ meeting to study the Bible with women of all ages from around the area. We were thankful for the message that Bro. Kan Umemura shared with us from Mark 2-3, and we trust that God will reveal himself to us through his Word.

Kansas, Bern
Leigha Rokey, Rita Menold

What a blessed month we’ve had here in northeast Kansas. The days are getting longer and sunnier, the grass is green, trees are budding, and gardens are being planted. Most of all it’s that time of year when we celebrate the resurrection of our risen Lord. For me it just seems like it’s a time when it just brings your church family a little closer together. As we partook of Holy Communion, we remember what binds us together and the real reason for our gathering. It’s a time of reflection and reigniting.

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS) for being here for our Communion weekend. We also enjoyed the Easter program our Sunday school children brought to us. It was a delight to see all the young faces share the most wonderful story of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

We also want to thank Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for also bringing us the Word of truth this month.

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Janelle Wuthrich

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord . . .” Psa. 127:3

Our congregation rejoiced with Bro. Tim and Sis. Nicole Banwart as they welcomed Judah Matthew to their family on March
1. He joins big brothers Jonah, Jayden, Jordan and Jaxon.

March 27 was the wedding day for Tyler Banwart and Rebecca Cahill. Their parents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart and Tim and Terri Cahill (Leavenworth, KS). Many from our congregation were blessed to be able to attend their wedding and we are so excited to welcome Rebecca to Fort Scott. We are also very thankful for God’s provision for their family as Rebecca becomes a new mom for Tyler’s three girls.

The Sunday school presented their Easter Program on the evening of Palm Sunday. We all appreciated their efforts in learning their pieces and singing the songs to remind us of the reason for our joy this season.

Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn, Sarasota, FL) was our visiting minister for Good Friday services. We were blessed by his efforts on our behalf and enjoyed having his family here for the weekend.

We were so thankful to be able to have our Easter sunrise service again after missing it last year. Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) was here to share the word with us that morning. Bro. Trent and Sis. Kristi Banwart hosted the service on their property, and we enjoyed a beautiful sunrise followed by a potluck breakfast outdoors. It was such a blessed start to our Easter day!

Our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) was with us on April 11 to share the Memorandum letter for this spring. We truly appreciate the efforts of our elder body to share this message so that our church body may continue to glorify Christ.

Kansas, Kiowa

Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

Our small congregation was blessed when we had two brothers come and offer themselves to minister the Holy Word. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Troy Metzger (and daughter and niece, Lester, IA) were such a blessing to us during the last month. We also had company passing through our area who joined us for a Sunday of fellowship. Thank you to all who make the effort to come and visit us!

Hospital patient this month has been Sis. Jennifer Stewart who underwent surgery to repair a knee. Hoping the Lord sends prompt healing to Sis. Jenny!

"There was an old woman who loved the Lord. She had learned to quilt in her later years, and she and the Lord spent many night hours toward Dawn at her sewing machine quilting for family and peers. Then one night without any guilt she was quilting and drinking hot tea, When slowly but surely the clock to twelve ascended. The message came in on her cell with a ding. The girl had written “could you please craft me a quilt With deer and with tractors, both red and green?”

Oh, my…. thought the old woman…. How crass can she be? Asking a quilt of such magnitude of me? And deer and tractors?? Oh, horrors…. thought she. No way would she comply with the message she read. “Why, I’ve got 17 quilts lined up to be tended; And I’m afraid the cost is way over your head!” And with that, the request for the quilt was ended. And THEN the old quilt maker was ready for bed So, she broke open her Bible and read where it said The 40th verse in Matthew 25. And lo and behold, it caught her eye: “In so much as ye have done it unto the least of these, Ye have done it unto Me” said the Savior with ease.

The old woman yelled “NO” waking her husband with a cry. This verse was simply not at all to please. So, she tried again, this time a safer place in the Scripture. Surely here, she thought, as the Old Testament she parted. But “Oh, no! Proverbs 3:37 then drew her the picture: “Withhold not good from them When it is in the power of thine hand to do it”. That settled it! The quilt would be immediately started, And the old woman would surely put her hand to it And not tarry or dare to even think to quit. So, after many long hours of quilting and sewing; And many yards of fabric
with tractors and deer,
A beautiful handmade quilt
was finally showing.
And soon was ready to
have its premier.
The old woman readied
it for its bestowing.
“Thank you, I love it!” said
the girl of her quilt,
Unaware of the art
That set it apart.
“No, Thank YOU!” came the reply
Of the old woman who
was standing by
With a glance toward the sky
And a tear in her eye
And a prayer on her heart,
As she whispered, “not my will,
but whatever Thou wilt”.

Composed and humbly
submitted by Sis. Millie Frieden
(aka the Old Woman).

“Trust and obey,
For there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.”

Trust and Obey, Hymns
of Zion, #186

Kansas, Sabetha
Leanna Harter, Whitney Harter
Greetings of love from Sabetha!

We gathered on Friday, April 2
for Good Friday services. It’s always
so good to stop and remember
Christ’s suffering at Calvary for
us! May we praise his name with
thankfulness in our hearts!

We’ve began our Sunday
evening singings for this season of
the year. It’s a blessing to gather
and lift our voices together in
praise to our Heavenly Father!

We rejoice with Bro. Jordan
and Sis. Leah Rokey on the safe
arrival of their baby boy, Nile Lee!
He is also welcomed by siblings Ava,
Jakob, and Elsa and grandparents
Galen and Nancy Rokey and Bro.
Nathan and Sis. LeAnn Gerber.

We congratulate each of our
2021 High School graduates:
Kenton Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis.
Cynthia), Laban Metzger (Bro.
Jared and Sis. Carla), Sis. Laura
Nenadov (Bro. Mark and Sis.
Brenda), Sis. Maddie Edelman (Bro.
Steven and Sis. Kelly), Sis. Rachel
Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy),
Sis. Sadie Grimm (Bro. Wayne
and Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Tessa
Strahm (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally).
We also extend congratulations to
our college graduates, Bro. Payton
Strahm (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie)
and Sis. Laura Edelman (Bro. Loren
and Sis. Jeanne). May they each
trust the Lord to lead them as they
step into the next chapter of their
lives and may the Lord bless them
each along the way.

“Have not I commanded thee? Be
strong and of a good courage; be not
afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the Lord thy God is with thee
withersoever thou goest.” Josh. 1:9

Kansas, Wichita
Niklaus and Sara Schrader
Greetings in the name of our
risen Savior Jesus Christ!
Our church has been blessed to
have a moving Easter service and
breakfast. It’s important to set aside
all burdens and worries at the Cross
and remember the great sacrifice
that Christ made. This very act
of selfless, unwavering love is the
foundation of our faith and the
reason that we can spend eternity
wiped clean of our sinful acts and
nature. Remembering Christ’s
actions and focusing on them will
allow us to live a life free of worry,
doubt, and hopelessness.

As we are conducting
Communion soon, we should
take the time to remember how
Jesus explained his exclusivity
and importance by making himself analogous to food and drink that we need to survive. We need Jesus to survive and have eternal life in heaven!

We are excited to welcome two sisters, Sis. Alex Weigand and Sis. Kenzie Meyer, to Wichita this fall to attend college. We encourage prayer for God’s guidance in their lives, so that their every decision is encouraged by him. College is a trying time for a believer as many different worldviews are perpetuated as truth. But we trust that God will strengthen their faith and build up their trust in the one and only truth, God’s Word.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not onto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5-6

México, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Rev. 12:11

Our Sunday school children helped us remember the power of Jesus’ resurrection and the power of his blood through the songs they shared on Easter Sunday. Pray with us that many more come to know him and be overcomers!

Sis. Socorro Chavez is recovering from surgery and is thankful for the prayers and the encouragement that has been shared with her in these past weeks. It is a blessing to hear her testimony of faith.

Sis. Carmen de Cervantes would also appreciate prayers for her health at this time. She is undergoing quite a bit of testing and monitoring of her heart.

Praise God that we can know the Lamb, that he gives each of us a testimony to share and that he patiently teaches us to not love this earthly life!

Mexiko, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

We rejoice with Francisco Alcaraz Martinez and Jaqueline Careaga Luna who were married on March 12. We pray that God will bless them as they learn and grow in faith and as they raise their two little boys, Angel and Alan.

We have found a large building in a central location that will accommodate our church services for the next few months. It is still a temporary arrangement, but we are especially thankful for a roof to shield us from the heat and plenty of space for all who may want to attend. Thank you for your prayers!

Please continue to pray for the troubled individuals and families in our community that they can find healing and hope in Jesus Christ, and through his strength make wise choices that will break the cycles of sin and brokenness.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

Easter morning started bright and early with a Sunrise Service and Easter program. As we celebrated the resurrection of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a deep gratitude and humble joy filled our hearts and minds.

It’s been over a year since we’ve had a visiting minister and we were truly blessed to have Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) here to help Elder Bro. Ted with Holy Communion. We extend our thankfulness to this dear couple for coming to share both Saturday evening and Sunday worship with us.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Susan Steffen (Bro. Nathan) and family, in the loss of her mother, Kay Jenkins (Ron); and with Sis. Carole Meyer in the passing of her sister Jeanne Gerber (Bluffton, IN). May they each know the comforting arms of our heavenly Father.

Congratulations to Bro. Martin and Sis. Michele Blough on the birth of a new granddaughter, Margo Jeanine (George and Heather Pfaller).

“Another soul has surrendered!
To our Father, she’s given her heart.
Now the journey towards life eternal
has finally had its sweet start.
’Tis now she can sleep
without fear or guilt,
and pray for forgiveness by faith,
understanding and believing
she can be saved,
by the blood of Jesus Christ,
through grace.” ibG.res
The angels are not the only ones rejoicing as it was announced that Ivy Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi) accepted the grace so freely given, to surrender her heart and life to our Abba Father. We pray that she will hold fast to God’s Holy Word, seeking guidance, courage, and strength as we are all aware the crafty foe is out there ready to destroy and deceive.

We continue to petition our heavenly Father for healing according to his will for the many who are struggling with health issues.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Our hearts rejoice with Sis. Jan Huntley (Jess) as she was able to give her testimony and be baptized. We pray God would continually lead and direct her life.

Bro. Fred Munsel passed away recently, and we want to remember his family during this time. Prayers of comfort are lifted up for his wife, Sis. Delores and his children, Bro. Kurt, Bro. Greg (Sis. Lynette), and Laurel Curtis (Jim). We also want to pray for his grandchildren during this time.

Sis. Betty Wieland was called home and we want to remember her husband, Bro. Morris and their children and grandchildren. We pray that God would sustain these two families with comfort and healing.

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

We are very grateful to report the good news that three of our church’s young people have recently made the step of announcing their desire to repent, publicly serve the Lord and be baptized in the future; they are: Colin Bedolla (Bro Jesse and Sis. Bonnie), Kaleigh Frank (Elder Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal), and Joshua Rauhe (Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie).

We enjoyed a special Sunday school Easter program which was a blessing for the church. It was such a blessing to see our youth speaking of and singing about the Good News!

We are so glad to have the kitchen committee’s help in providing pre-wrapped lunches so we can again enjoy food and fellowship together as a church family before a second service.

“...and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19

We were blessed to take Communion recently and wish to thank Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) for assisting Elder Bro. Lucas Frank. We are also thankful that Bro. Lynn shared the Word with us on Sunday.

We are looking forward to testimonies and baptisms the weekend of June 12-13 for BJ and Zach Blume (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise).

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

Greetings of love in Jesus! Say his name and be thankful for his saving grace and mercy! We are energized as we witness the rebirth of the earth around us while we delight in the sights and sounds of Spring. How can we not be in awe of our Creator and the beauty he provides? An added bonus is our joy to celebrate our risen Lord and Savior Jesus and his resurrection day!

On Saturday, March 20, we shared the wonderful blessing to partake in Holy Communion. The next day, our dear Sunday school children and teachers provided a special Zoom Easter program, in honor of Jesus, his amazing love and sacrifice.

We are called to follow his example in this hurting world and be a witness for him.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Luke 4:18-19

Our prayers are with our dear Sis. Sandy Bentz and her family while her husband Craig remains in the hospital. May our Great Physician and Healer of Souls surround them with strength and peace.

Minnesota, Morris
Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf

Baptism-Death-The Resurrection-New Life.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:4
Our friend Anne Koehl, (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim Koehl) is at peace with God and man. We pray that by our prayers and acts of Christian love she feels encouraged to serve the Lord.

Our sympathies to Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall (Bro. Rob) on the passing of her mother, Sis. Barb Massner (Mediapolis, IA). Funeral services for Sis. Barb were held on Wednesday, March 24 at Mediapolis. May God’s promise of eternal life in heaven fill their hearts with hope and peace. Condolences to the family of Ronald Burnham, sibling of Alan Burnham (Sis. Ilene). Funeral services for Ron were held on Friday, April 16 in Benson, MN. We pray with confidence that God will comfort his family and the hearts of all who mourn his passing.

Sis. Joan Schmidgall has arrived back home safely from Bonne Fin, Haiti. We are thankful for all missionaries who selflessly serve God in this way. We ask that our Redeemer continue to bless the people of Bonne Fin as only he can and grant a measure of grace to those who bring healing, hope and the Word to them.

Newly selected Sunday school teachers are Sis. Candace Metzger and Bro. Davis Wulf. Thank you for accepting this responsibility with an open heart. May God direct them and all Sunday school teachers to instill the living Word in each student in their care.

We gathered outside of Courage Cottage Hospice Center to lift our voices in song on Easter Sunday. What a meaningful celebration it was to sing of our risen Savior and share the message that death is conquered for all through Jesus. Brothers, sisters and the compassionate staff were moved by the Spirit as we praised God for sending his son to redeem us all.

We are renewed in body, mind and spirit by the living God. At no better time than partaking of Communion is this accomplished. Leading us by prayer and Scripture on Saturday, April 10 were Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen) and the Morris ministers.

Congratulations to Alex and Joanna (Moser) Guttormsson on their marriage. May God bless their union and bind their hearts which he has brought together. Celebrating this special event are Joanna’s parents Jon and Lori Moser of Morris. Joanna is the granddaughter of Sis. Noreen and the late Dave Moser.

We have had another month of opportunities to experience the Word, to feel God’s grace, to accept that we are forgiven and loved. We are taught of his love daily by the Spirit that binds us. We truly are a blessed people. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Col. 3:16

Minnesota, Morris North

Greetings in Jesus!

We rejoiced last month when Ted Nohl (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristi Furrer) began his repentance in our congregation. Luke 15:10 It is always special to see young people turning their hearts to Jesus and committing their lives to Christ and his will. Please pray for Ted to receive the peace of our Lord Jesus as he walks in this way.

We were thankful for prayers for the selection of our local elder and we can say that your prayers were helpful because God is gracious. Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch were asked and will begin the process of confirmation and ordination as the elder of Morris North. We ask that you would pray specifically for Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie and their children Sawyer, Lillie, Maggie, Owen, and Lincoln.

Please continue to pray for the older generation of our church as they are still isolated and not able to travel or heal from the circumstances that they are currently experiencing. Sis. Marion Schmidgall is moving to West Wind Villa to convalesce regarding a heart issue. Bro. Floyd Schmidgall is in Skyview Plaza without much contact with external people. Sis. Ila Gramm was able to travel to visit relatives in various states but was isolated for a long period of time. Our Sis. Mabel Zeltwanger is still in isolation with the COVID-19 protocols and finally Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall is in her apartment locally. We look forward to a more normal time of fellowship with each one of them as the circumstances would allow.

We also would like to inform you that a local group (Morris and Morris North) of HarvestCall representatives and
other very helpful brothers have started the process of setting up a company to bag beans and other activities that will help with three things. First is to glorify God and his son Jesus in the redistribution of bulk food to local and international food shelves. Second is to include our children in the process to connect them with helping the needy. Third we ask people of retirement age to help pray and to donate their gifts and efforts to establish a non-profit for those purposes. We ask for your prayers that God will be glorified in this process.

Lastly, we would say that we have felt Titus 3:7 “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Minnesota, Winthrop

Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner

We were privileged to listen to the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Sam and Sis. Sandy Miller on March 27-28. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) here for the weekend.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt were excited to bring their first grandchild to church with her mom and dad, Sis. Sierra and Bro. Jordan Grimm (West Bend, IA) last Sunday. Little Teegan Marie will be well loved.

Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike) and Sis. Georgia Messner will miss their sister and sister-in-law, Lois Messner (Marlyn, Gaylord, MN) who passed away in March.

Our prayers continue for Sis. Ginny Stoll as she is dealing with lots of pain and issues from her Sjogren’s. Hopefully, after her surgery she will be relieved of so much pain. Also, Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) are both recovering from knee replacement surgery. Bro. Paul had a little bump in the road and had to return to the hospital for a night but we’re thankful he is doing much better.

We had our Communion exhortation and are looking forward to Communion. It’s been two years since we had Communion as it has for many of you. It is such a beautiful time to cleanse ourselves and draw closer together. We don’t appreciate it enough when we have it but sure do miss it when we don’t.

Correction: We reported Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper’s address wrong in March. It should be 1401 Main St. W., Silver Lake, MN 55381.

Missouri, Kansas City

Katy Frantz, Julie Webel

Every spring the growth of new plants brings to mind the words of Jesus:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” John 12:24

This past month our church rejoiced with four of our converts as they gave testimonies and were baptized. On March 21, Bro. Dominic and Sis. Holly Webel were baptized.

Then on April 18, Sis. Kambria Kellenberger and Sis. Amor Kellenberger were baptized. It is always so uplifting at baptisms to be reminded of the dying of the old self and the rising of the new - like a kernel of wheat dying and rising to bring forth fruit.

March 27 many gathered for a church singing at Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyrena Rassi’s home.

"Come Children, join in singing Sweet praises to our Lord,”

The Pilgrim’s Song, Zion’s Harp, #136

We are thankful for the ministers that served during the baptisms, as well as visiting ministers we have had in the past month: Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet, Bern, KS), Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS).

Missouri, Lamar

Leah Rokey

As spring has arrived and new life is appearing around us, I have been reminded of the newness of life in Christ! What a wonderful treasure for those of us who have sought him in repentance and been blessed by our Father’s mercy and grace!

We once again had the privilege to host visitors over the past month and appreciate each one that visited our congregation! Our church family partook Communion this month. We were
grateful for the service of Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS) that weekend. We also appreciated Bro. Jay giving a talk on Bible names on Saturday evening. Additional visiting ministers that blessed us with their service over the past month include Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN), Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH).

We enjoyed having the Eureka single group worship with us one Sunday as part of their mystery trip. It always encourages our spirits to have a full church!

Missouri, St. Louis
Michelle Rassi

Our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) is so faithful in shepherding and guiding our church. He made the trip to St. Louis on Wednesday, April 24 to share a report from the winter conference.

The Sunday school children blessed us with a small Easter program on Sunday, March 28.

Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) spent Easter with our church family. Thanks for your labor of love!

We were thankful to be able to host a large group from Washington, IL this month. The singing was beautiful and the zeal of youth is so encouraging! An added blessing was that ministering Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) traveled with them. His message from 1 Corinthians 9 challenged us to greater self-sacrifice and diligence in running the race toward heaven.

Missouri, Taylor
Tami Pfum

A hearty thank you is extended to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan, Roanoke, IL). In addition to his pulpit ministry, we greatly appreciate the efforts of Bro. Matt on behalf of ACCFS for encouraging us with a timely presentation on Dealing with Stress, Anxiety and Worry on March 20 where we learned three helpful steps to take when confronted with these emotions: 1. Face the fear 2. Check our thinking and 3. Trust in the Lord.

Our church family had a busy weekend March 27-28, as we worked side by side during a Spring cleanup of our grounds and Fellowship Center, followed by Communion that evening and the Sunday school Easter Program the following day. We want to extend our gratefulness to Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) and Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) for serving us holy Communion, and to all of our Sunday school teachers and students for the beautiful retelling of the Easter story through scripture and song.

We were truly blessed to have Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman (Roanoke, IL) share with us about their time in Papau New Guinea, where they serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Our love and prayers go with them as they return to PNG, following an extended stay in the United States.

We have had many reasons to praise God this month but also much cause for petitioning him on behalf of those we love. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Dianne Augsburg and her family as she was seriously injured in an accident and has a long road to recovery ahead of her. We also lift up Sis. Judy Huber (Bro. Vernon, dec.) as she heals from injuries suffered in a recent fall. Finally, our hearts ache for Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne Sutter and family in the loss of their hog barn. Willow Bend Pork Facility initially caught on fire and suffered extensive damage after being struck by lightning. The fire re-ignited a few days later and quickly spread throughout the entire barn. Thankfully the pigs were evacuated following the first fire, but it is still a large loss. What a comfort to know even in these deep trials, God will never, no never, no never forsake.

"How firm a foundation, Ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith In His excellent word! What more can He say Than to you He hath said. To you, who for refuge To Jesus have fled? "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed. For I am thy God, And will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, And cause thee to stand.

"How firm a foundation, Ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith In His excellent word! What more can He say Than to you He hath said. To you, who for refuge To Jesus have fled? "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed. For I am thy God, And will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, And cause thee to stand.
**New York, Croghan/Naumburg**

**Karen Farney**

As we say farewell to the winter months, we welcome the spring months, as it brings forth new life. As we see that new life come out of the earth, may we also see it come out of the souls of all mankind, in the form of God’s love and concern one for another.

We thank Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) for being with us on Palm Sunday and bringing forth the Lord’s message. Thankful we could gather for Good Friday services and hear what our Lord and Savior went through for each and every one of us, shed his blood and died on the cross. Then on Easter Sunday we would read and hear the message, that he arose from death and grave, that we might have life eternal.

We were thankful to have brethren with us on Easter Sunday, from Akron and Rittman, OH.

On Sunday, April 11 we were blessed to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) for coming and sharing this most sacred privilege.

We have started our Wednesday evening services after a winter break.

Bro. John Farney welcomed a new grandson, Thad David, born to Jacob and Emily Farney.

We pray for the family of Bruce Hirschey, who passed away from this life April 9. Bruce is survived by his wife Gayle, his children, Aaron (Janis), Jacob (Leah), Rachel (Matt), and seven grandchildren.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Rom. 12:15

**Ohio, Akron**

**Joelle Indermuhle**

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

As we conclude another season of reflecting on Jesus’ crucifixion, death, and resurrection, it is also important to remember our calling to share this message with others. We are so thankful for our ministering brothers who do this weekly from the pulpit, and also for those who travel to do this as well. It was a blessing to have Bro. Arlan Miller and his wife, Sis. Katie, (Gridley, IL) for a weekend of ACCFS presentations and his willingness to minister on Sunday.

Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH) also joined us and willingly shared the Gospel from the pulpit the following weekend. Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) traveled to assist with Communion the weekend of April 10-11. Likewise, Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) joined us April 15 for an exhortation to the church as we undergo the process of seeking new church leadership. We are thankful for the willingness of all the brothers who have been called into the ministry, and pray especially for those who take on the mantle of eldership.

Bro. Les and Sis. Judi Steidl are excited to have another grandson, with the birth of Forrest Wayne on March 25 to Nick and Heidi Coffman. His siblings are Charlotte, Hunter, and Norah.

Our prayers are with Sis. Elsa Yovichin as she has spent time in the hospital recently.

**Ohio, Junction**

**Karen Schlatter**

We were blessed to spend Easter Sunday sharing in the joy of the wedding of Sis. Abigail Schrenk...
(Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) as she was married to Bro. James Fairchild (Walter and Jill). Spending the day with us were Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). May the newly married couple daily seek the Lord’s guidance as a three-fold cord is not easily broken.

We are thankful to hear that Jesse Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy) has found peace and is looking forward to giving his testimony of faith and be baptized.

Bro. Evan and Sis. Miranda Schlatter welcomed Owen Edward into their family on April 5. He is also welcomed by his grandparents Bro. Ed and Sis. Cheryl Schlatter and older siblings: Olivia, Isabelle, Preston, Jayden, and Amaya.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter welcomed a new grandson on April 5 born to daughter Renae and her husband Adam Snyder. Jason Micah is also welcomed by an older brother Jackson.

Saturday evening, April 17 we shared in Holy Communion with Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) assisting Elder Bro. Tony Manz. A special thanks to Bro. John for his willingness to come and serve. May we remember the Lord’s death and suffering throughout the year and not only when we partake of Holy Communion.

A recent Bible study at church was on the topic of forgiveness and reconciliation. Afterwards I read this message and thought it was so pertinent to our discussion. “Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your blessings in stone.” Author unknown

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

Greetings in the name of Jesus!
On March 28, we had a special service as Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette) was ordained as our new elder. We pray Bro. Gary and his family will feel our love and support during this time of transition. Special thanks to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) for assisting our church in seeking new leadership. We also wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to newly retired Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia) for their many years of service on our behalf.

March 21 was the wedding day for Sis. Arika Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) and Bro. Scott Kieser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jane, Morton, IL). We were blessed to have many visitors with us including Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Adam Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) and Sis. Beth Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma, Toledo, OH) were married in Bluffton, IN on April 11. We pray God’s richest blessings on these two newly married couples.

Bro. Arthur and Sis. Wendy Stoller welcomed Taryn Elizabeth into their hearts and home on April 3. Big sisters, Kaylee and Raena, are excited to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

We have been prayerful for Bro. Joel Beer (Sis. Sue), Bro. Al Beer (Sis. Janet), and Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna) who have spent time in the hospital. Extended periods of hospitalization and fragile health circumstances are especially isolating during this time with extra healthcare rules. Prayer and God’s power transcends all earthly limitations, so let us continue in prayer and reach out to our loved ones in special ways.

Many of us gathered for remembrance in Jesus’s name, for Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) for ministering to us during this sacred time.

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.” 1 Cor. 11:26

We also enjoyed the visits and appreciated the labors of visiting ministers Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH), Bro. Tom Hill (Sis. Elaine, Rittman, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH).

“Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper, And bear fruit for harvest day.”
The Golden Harvest,
Hymns of Zion, #46
Ohio, Rittman
Mardel Dotterer, Julie Steiner

Christian love and greetings from Rittman! We are rejoicing with two new converts this month. We pray that Christopher Schar (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Linda) and Dylan Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan) can feel God’s peace and grace as they begin their walk of faith.

First time parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Tricia Baltic, welcomed Aaron Michael Baltic, Jr. on April 20. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic and Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky (Akron, OH). Symphony Hadassah was welcomed by Bro. Myles and Sis. Katie Rufener, and sisters Sylvia and Serenity (Smithville, OH). Symphony’s grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler became grandparents again with the arrival of Taryn Elizabeth Stoller on April 3. Taryn’s parents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Wendy Stoller (Latty, OH) and her big sisters are Kaylee and Raene.

Our Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler gave a brief summary of the Winter Elder Conference to our church on March 21. The following Sunday, on March 28, we had our first all day church with everyone invited for both services. We were so thankful to start fellowship again with those we missed seeing during our modified Group 1 and Group 2 services. May we never take our physical gatherings for granted and also be considerate of those who have experienced trials and loss during this time. Special Sunday morning services are currently being held at the Fellowship Hall for those who may need or feel more comfortable with more COVID-19 compliant restrictions.

We appreciate our visiting ministers and their willingness to serve us. Special thanks to Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) for blessing us with their messages.

Our prayers are with those with health concerns. Bro. Blake Maibach (Sis. Tresa), Bro. Steve Ramsier (Sis Karen), Bro. Vernon Landis (Sis. Lib), and Sis. Sandra Franks (Bro. Denny) have recently spent time in the hospital.

We extend deepest sympathy to Bro. Darrell and Sis. Shirley Rufener on the passing of their brother-in-law Richard Johnson (Ellen, Smithville, OH). May the family feel God’s comfort.

We also offer our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Julia Boros (Bro. Daniel) on the loss of her brother Janos Namenyi from the Nazarene church in Budapest, Hungary. We are thankful for the promises of God which are not bound by time or distance.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come… shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Rom. 8:38-39

Ohio, Sardis
Renee Blough, Doris Miller

“Thy conflict is our peace.

Thy death is our salvation,
Thy bonds, our liberty,
Thy pains, our consolation.
Thy cross doth comfort give,
Thy wounds, a balm that heals.
Thy blood a ransom is,
Thy Word a hope reveals.”
One For All, Zion’s Harp, #44

With overwhelming gratitude to God for his great love we rejoice to see people continuing to forsake the world and all its vanity and cling to the saving grace of Jesus. Our new sisters Livi Beard (Bro. Seth and Sis. Faith), Leah Hartzler and Grace Hartzler (Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami) gave testimony of their faith and were baptized. In like news we gratefully heard that Daniel Fisher (Bro. Dave, dec. and Val) is at peace and desires baptism.

The description of the priestly garments was read Sunday morning. The magnificent vibrant garment was full of remembrance and declared “HOLINESS TO THE LORD” Ex. 39:30. We can also read in the New Testament of a pure white garment that we can wear when our sins are washed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.” Rev. 3:5

Surgical patients Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary) and Bro. Rob Figel (Sis. Angie) continue to be in our prayers. May God be glorified in times of sickness and of health.
Ohio, Smithville
Connie Maletich, Marcy Stoller

We were thankful to be able to reopen our church services to all, while having respect for those with COVID-19 concerns.

Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach rejoiced at having two new grandbabies. Granger Paul was born to Jason and Emily Speelman. Felicity Faith joined Clayton, Kierstyn and Westyn in the family of Bryan and Katie Yungen.


Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Harvey Landis (Steph) recently spent time in the hospital. We pray for their continued healing.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. John Rufener (Sis. Janice), Sis. Marsha Rufener (Bro. Kevin, dec.), and Sis. Susan Rufener (Bro. Larry, dec.) for the loss of their brother-in-law Richard Johnson (Ellen).

Ohio, Toledo
Anne Baumann, Brooke Harmon

We are officially in our new church building! We are so appreciative for all the support we have received over the past year. A simple thank you feels inadequate when we consider all who supported this project through prayer, financial support, and time volunteered.

Toledo (a small congregation) could not have done this project without the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ. So even though this cannot convey our deep gratitude; thank you, thank you, thank you! And while we are also thankful for God’s provision in getting us to this point, I think a little perspective is vital. The church building is just that, a building where the church gathers together.

We, as the Apostolic Christian Church, have been greatly blessed by having buildings in which we can gather. An area where we (the AC church) excel as believers is in our understanding that we are Christians every day of the week. We gather as a husband and wife kneeling beside our beds at night. We gather when we invite others into our homes for dinner. We gather when our young people pile into a car and drive “who knows how far” across this country to be with other believers for a young group weekend. Young and old we gather often realizing that our gathering on Sunday to worship is only a fraction of our gathering together in worship of the King.

The Greek word for church in the New Testament is “ekklesia” meaning “the called out ones”. This refers to an assembly of God’s people either as a local congregation or the global body of Christ. Our English word for church is derived from an entirely different Greek word “kuriakon” meaning “dedicated/belonging to the Lord” implying a temple or sacred building. In the Old Testament the tabernacle is referred to as the house of the LORD. Additionally, places where God met mankind were also holy. Many, if not all, pagan religions also understand this concept of a holy or sacred place and have set up “holy places” for their gods. We, as the church of God, experienced a shift when the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. At his death, Christ did away with the scared building (temple), the sacrifices (he was the perfect sacrifice), and the holy men/priests (all believers are now priests unto God). The Spirit of God left the building and began to dwell in temples not built with hands, that is our mortal bodies.

For this reason, translating the word ekklesia as “church” is a confusing translation and can convey the idea that there is something sacred about a mere building. It is not, however, the building that is holy but those who are in Christ. The building, in which we the church gather, is only holy while we the church gather in it. Romans 8 clearly points out that all believers have the Spirit of God living inside them and 1 Corinthians 3 states that Christians are now God’s temple. Our homes, coffee shops, and cars become equally holy when we the church gather in them. So why is this important? I think it is always wise to adjust our understanding and definition of words and concepts so that they align with the Word of God. Using the word church can cause us to read our English understanding of this word into biblical passages and miss some of the glory of what God has accomplished for us. Our worship of God on Sunday should not be unique. We are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit is with us at all
times. We should feel no different or less holy on Monday than we do on Sunday. What an incredible understanding that the church is not confined to a building but is active and alive every day!

As COVID-19 restrictions lessen we’ve been excited to welcome more visitors. Bro. Jim Manz (Sis. Elizabeth, Junction, OH) spent a Sunday morning with us and Elder Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) graciously made the effort to come celebrate Communion. It was impactful to have this special time as a church body so close to Easter. The willingness of Jesus to drink the cup of God’s wrath and face the penalty for sin (something he had never experienced before) goes to show his immense love for us. But ultimately his main purpose was to glorify the Father. To love the unlovable and redeem the ungodly speaks to the greatness of God. There is truly none like our God!

**Ontario, Kitchener**

**RoseLynn Metzger**

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)” Heb 10:23

Greetings of love, joy and peace in our Saviour’s name from Kitchener! In the last few weeks, these verses from Hebrews have really stood out to me personally. God has promised us so many good things here on earth, and even more in Heaven. I am in awe of how God is working in the background of our lives, planning our lives with such care and consideration, knowing full well he keeps his promises and is working all things out for good and for his glory (Rom 8:28). So, in this time, I am reminded to thank God for everything. For the things where I can see his hand at work, but also for the things that I can’t see just yet! Maybe its an unanswered prayer or a door that hasn’t opened. I almost guarantee that God is working things out differently than I would, because he knows the best outcome.

And for this, I thank God. I thank him for caring about each and every detail of my life and yours, and for all the work he is doing behind the scenes to orchestrate our lives perfectly as he has planned. We know he doesn’t make mistakes and always keeps his promises.

This month we have been blessed with visiting ministers once again joining us on Zoom! As always, we are so thankful for this connection and the efforts made by our visitors. With us this month were Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Steph, Morris North, MN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT).

We were blessed with a message of hope and love on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection daily, but taking some extra time to commemorate what he did for us is always special. Since the Canadian borders are currently still closed, we welcome you to ‘visit’ us on our Zoom calls! We meet Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and please reach out to Sis. Alma Gingrich (elmetalma4@gmail.com) for the link details. I pray that this coming month can be one filled with encouragement, growth and joy in Jesus Christ!

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Heb 13:8

**Oregon, Portland**

**Louisa Gallup**

After a time of illness, Bob Quick (Gracie, dec.) passed away in Memphis, TN on March 21 at the age of 89. He was the brother of Sis. Barb Moser (Bro. Ray, dec.). Our prayers go out to Sis. Barb and the family. We have fond memories of Bob’s visits to Oregon and always enjoyed his kindness and good nature. May the Lord bless his family as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Another soul who went home to be with the Lord is Lavern Johnson (Elizabeth) of Clifton, IL. Lavern was the uncle of Sis. Lisa Leman (Bro. Mike), and brother-in-law of Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty). He was 89 and passed away on March 22. May the family feel the comfort of peace from the Lord during this time of loss.

We wish to thank Ken Knecht (Camie) for his steady help over the years, with the maintenance of our church building and grounds. May the Lord bless him for his willingness to serve. It is very much appreciated, especially since most of us live some distance from church.

We rejoice with first time grandparents Bro. Ilija and Sis.

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Nada Gavrilovic. On April 15, Sophia was born in Serbia to David and Ljubica Gavrilovic. May God bless the new parents with joy and happiness as they raise this precious little girl.

**Oregon, Silverton**

**Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn**

Our congregation continues to be blessed by the newborn babies and those who are giving their lives to the Lord! Jerome Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer), Ashley Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi), and Preston Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky) have begun their journey with the Lord! We are prayerful for each one of them and thankful to see the light of Jesus shine in their hearts.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Shayna Schurter welcomed their first child on March 30, Kaysen John. Grandparents are John and Sis. Karmin Popkes (Lester, IA), and Lee and Jeanette Schurter from the Silverton area.

We’re glad to welcome Bro. Gabe Meyer from Bern, KS, who will be staying in Oregon and worshipping with us for the next few months.

Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam Hoach along with their family, Sis. Victoria, Sis. Rebekah, Robert, Dylan, Jacob, and Erica are now attending the Silverton congregation. We’re thankful to be able to worship together and pray for God’s blessings on this transition.

Phil Hari, brother to Sis. Jan Gudeman (Bro. Richard) has been in the hospital in serious condition for a couple of weeks and would appreciate your prayers for healing.

We were blessed to listen to and witness the testimonies and baptisms of Collin Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa), Byron Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) and Katie Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith). Thank you to Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH), for sharing in the special weekend with us. It was a beautiful weekend of joy and renewal, and we are blessed to be adding to our church body!

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

**Laura Isch**

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted…” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

We certainly have been experiencing the seasons of life in our Philadelphia congregation. We are excited to report two new babies this month! Evelyn Rose was welcomed by Bro. Tyler and Sis. Mallory Lanz, along with big siblings, Cameron, Ashtyn, and Colin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Kay Lanz, and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm (Latty, OH). We also rejoice with Dillin and Mallory Holub as they welcome Brooks Landry. Excited grandparents are Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy Metzger.

Our love and sympathy are with Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben) and Sis. Jamil Lugnibuhl (Bro. Adam) as they grieve the loss of their mother, Sis. Juanita Walter (Bro. Jim, Fairbury, IL). She also left behind many grandchildren and great-grandchildren in our congregation. Our prayers are with the entire family.

We also appreciated having a visiting minister this month.

May God bless Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) for sharing the Word with us.

We also enjoyed hearing the Easter story from our Sunday school children! It is such an encouragement to hear the truth from such energetic and innocent hearts! May we each keep the joy and power of the Easter story in our hearts as we move forward in the journey of life.

**Tennessee, Nashville**

**Mike Fritz**

We are blessed to be able to gather for worship and fellowship, and we are thankful for our willing visiting ministers. Our recent visiting ministers have been: Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Tricia, South Bend, IN), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), and Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of visitors from Elgin, IL; Francesville, Indianapolis, Leo, and South Bend, IN; Iowa City, IA; Kansas City, MO; and Philadelphia, PA; as well as several local visitors.

We continue to meet for worship at an alternate location while repairs are being made to
our church building, so when you plan to visit, please contact us to learn where we are meeting that Sunday. Contacts are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.1490, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury, 765.993.8917, jeremy.bradbury1975@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremiah Stoller, 615.761.7033, jeremiahleestoller32@gmail.com.

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

Candy Meiss

Greetings from the Austin/Bastrop church! It has been a beautiful time in Texas as we continue to see new growth in our trees and our church congregation! We are so thankful and excited to welcome Bro. Ned and Sis. Alyssa Troxel and their precious little girls, Ramie and Tessa as they have moved here from the Detroit congregation. What a blessing it is to feel such immediate love for those of like mind and faith! We also give thanks and praise to welcome back Bro. Nelson and Sis. Janelle Eisenmann! So thankful that God has led them back “home”? God is so good. We pray that God will bless them all as they “settle in” in Texas!

We were blessed by hearing the pure Word by the Holy Spirit’s inspiration as Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) shared with us.

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) both from Rockville, CT and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue) from Altadena, CA. Although our worship and fellowship with them is through video calls, we feel their love and support and wish God’s blessings on them for their efforts to serve us. As guidelines regarding interstate travel loosen, we look forward to in-person fellowship with those from out of state.

Sheena Pelsy

Love and greetings from the Dallas church! We were blessed to have Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Austin/Bastrop, TX) join us for services throughout the month. While preaching, Bro. Jim touched on the account of Paul speaking to the Jews in Acts 22. We were reminded how Paul’s story of how he was approached by God and called to serve him still rings true today. God is still confronting souls to find them ready to receive him. No matter our past, those that have God’s saving grace and have accepted Christ as their Savior can be witnesses to others! Just like Paul had an urgency to share his story in Jerusalem, God may give us an urgency to share with someone on our hearts. Let us not ignore the chance to open up and show how God works in wonderful and personal ways.

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, call Bro. Rodney Pelsy at 219.204.3106.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

Sarah Wagenbach

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) both from Rockville, CT and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue) from Altadena, CA. Although our worship and fellowship with them is through video calls, we feel their love and support and wish God’s blessings on them for their efforts to serve us. As guidelines regarding interstate travel loosen, we look forward to in-person fellowship with those from out of state.
On March 15, 2020, our church hosted an invite-a-guest, and the President proclaimed a national day of prayer. This began our year-long journey through the COVID-19 pandemic. It proved to be a golden opportunity to practice our “guiding principles” since we were all experiencing it together at the same time. Our local brethren represented the whole spectrum of views, from those seriously risk-averse to those placing a high value on personal liberty.

Although we were confined to our homes, the brethren were not idle. Our ministers faithfully spoke God’s Word in front of empty pews. Technology Brothers supported them there by finding new and better ways to broadcast. Others were caring for the sick, writing letters, calling shut-ins, taking meals to the elderly, sewing and distributing masks, and serenading nursing home residents from their yards. “We disciple and care for one another as a committed church body” (Guiding Principle D).

Meanwhile, the reopening committee spent many hours in virtual meetings deciding on our gradual steps to reopen. This group also represented the whole spectrum of viewpoints, giving them much practice in listening and reasoning together. When they published their decisions, we all had the opportunity to place ourselves under authority and cooperate cheerfully. “We apply spiritual discernment to our daily decisions based on the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit’s direction, and Godly counsel from fellow believers” (Guiding Principle E).

As reopening progressed, the cleaning ladies were at work before and after every service. Ushers were always on duty. The kitchen committee labored to purchase, transport, and serve snacks and bottles of water and cleaned up after every noon break. Each new step likely found some concerned it was too fast and others frustrated that it was too slow. Who really knew? Walking together step by step, God gave us the opportunity to esteem others higher than ourselves and to submit to one another in the fear of God. “We see God’s value in each individual and joyfully reflect Jesus’ peaceful spirit” (Guiding Principle F).

Our journey through the pandemic has essentially been a practice session for the Christian life as we apply what we have learned each day in our lives as Christ’s followers. Praise him “… that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). The experience offered each of us lessons “… that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15).

Becky Endress - Bradford, IL
WHY DON’T you guys date?”

Have you ever heard that question? I have. I was raised in Bluffton, Indiana, home of the biggest Apostolic Christian Church in America. Everyone in the Bluffton community is quasi-familiar with the Apostolic Christian Church. But mostly, they are intrigued by our practices that they don’t totally understand. Therefore, when I was growing up, and people found out I was “AC,” they interrogated me!

“Why don’t you guys date?”

“Why don’t you play organized sports?”

“Why do the girls wear dresses?”

I feared getting those questions. So I didn’t openly broadcast the fact that I went to the Apostolic Christian Church. I was not ashamed. I was just shy. And I wasn’t good at articulating clear answers to their questions.

In retrospect, the answer is simple. I should have said, “We apply spiritual discernment to our daily decisions based on the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit’s direction, and Godly counsel from fellow believers” (Guiding Principle E).

When I was young, I knew there was a good reason for all of our practices. Even though I couldn’t quote Guiding Principle E, I witnessed it in our Brotherhood. I trusted our Brotherhood. I knew the point of our practices was to aid believers. And I knew believers made all such decisions through spiritual discernment, studying Scripture, prayer, the Holy Spirit’s direction, and Godly counsel from others. And, most importantly, I knew our church was not about traditions and practices, but about being born-again and aspiring to live like Christ.

It’s funny how things change. Today, I happily broadcast the fact that I am a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. And I love when people ask me questions. I have been a Christian for 23 years, so I have seen the fruit of Guiding Principle E. I understand why we have our practices, and I have seen the benefits of them.

If you are reading this, and you are not part of the Apostolic Christian Church, I have good news for you. Our practices are not exclusive to our denomination. They can be a blessing to anyone! If you have questions about them, I’d love to talk to you – (260) 565-4110.

MATT DRAYER - WOLCOTT, IN

OUR GUIDING principle D.7 states, “We rejoice together as a church family as we experience the important spiritual milestones in each other’s lives.” Some of the most blessed events in our lives have been Saturday evenings (before COVID) when the church would be filled with those coming to hear the testimonies of church family and loved ones. On those special occasions, we would stand in between testimonies to sing “It Is Well With My Soul.” It made one think of Heaven. Anonymous (continued on next page)
PROVERBS 14:24 shares that if men are wise and good, riches make them so much more honorable and useful, while allowing them more influence. Those who have wealth – and wisdom to use it – will have a great opportunity to honor God and do good in the world. However, the opposite is true of the wicked and corrupt. Their wealth will expose them. In the hands of someone who carries wisdom, money is only a tool. It can be either a tool to bring about good in the world or a tool to enrich evil. How one handles the discipline of carrying money shines a light on just where his heart is bent. If a man is evil, money will become a consuming desire that can never be quenched. However, if a man is good, he recognizes that money is simply a tool – God’s tool. In the hands of the wise, money can spread its roots far and never stop yielding precious fruit. The wise man knows that keeping money for the proper purpose means he will never have a life that lacks in goodness, love, faith, and trust in the One he can never out give.

To the wise, money holds three uses. Personal money-management expert Dave Ramsey states that these uses are to “spend, save, and give.” Each of these uses can be abused. Yet, the wise man knows these three things: they never spend more than they can make; if they don’t save, they won’t gain; and lastly, if they don’t give, they will never receive. Spending is fun, but the wise will never spend more than they make. Spending should never bring on debt, as this would interrupt the other two purposes and throw all purposes out of synch. Saving should incorporate 15% of one’s income for retirement with a set-aside emergency fund that can last three-to-six months. Thirdly, giving is the grand, eternal purpose of influence for which the wise strive. They know the return for giving brings an indescribable harvest of blessings. It spreads roots mentally, physically, spiritually, and financially deep within the giver’s heart and the receiver’s soul. The wise know that giving allows them to become as that tree planted by the living water, always green and never worried. They know that the living water will never run dry because the stream is not dependent upon their striving. Rather, it’s based on the condition of opening their hands, allowing what is freely gained to be freely given. They will be as a fountain flowing whose well is deep and will never run dry.

Freely we give, and freely we will receive.

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6: 19-21).

Howard and Sally Herman - Peoria, IL
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

**News and Notices**

**AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content**

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**2021 Apostolic Christian Church Services**

**Clyde Park, Montana**

Saturday June 26th
Clyde Park Community Center
3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration and Fellowship
5:00 Evening Meal
Hymn Singing in Evening

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2021, please contact one of the following Bros.

From Lester
Wes Moser 712-395-2025 wemoser58@gmail.com
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647 bobcmet@alliancecom.net or 612-963-0089 (mobil)

From Silverton
Greg Wackerle 503-873-7463 gregwackerle@msn.com or 503-779-9803

Sunday June 27th
Clyde Park Community Center
Church Services
10:15 am and 12:30 pm

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT

Fairfield Inn (406-222-4914) will have a block of rooms available under Apostolic Christian or Bob Metzger

There are a number of campgrounds and rental homes in the area.

It is helpful if those attending can bring their own Bibles, Zion’s Harps, and Hymn’s of Zion.

Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses

A day tour of the area may be organized for those interested on Friday June 25th.
You can find full role descriptions at harvestcall.org/missionary-openings or the Job Postings section of AC Central.

For additional details for these exciting and worthy service opportunities contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

**JAMAICA**

**DISCIPLESHIP & CHILDCARE**
Engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers. This role will specifically be alongside Sis. Erin Davis and the care of young children at En Gedi house. - Mandeville, Jamaica

**DEAF DISCIPLESHIP**
Engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers. This role will specifically be alongside of the ministry of Deaf Can Coffee and the E3 fellowship gathering. - Kingston, Jamaica

**BUSINESS DISCIPLESHIP**
To proclaim Christ and serve others through the avenue of community interaction, using the business marketplace as the primary vehicle of ministry. Discipleship through relationships with other employees and the community. - Fatted Calf - Magdalena, Mexico

**YOUTH TRAINING COORDINATOR**
To proclaim Christ and serve others through the avenue of community interaction, using agricultural education as the primary vehicle of ministry. This role will be responsible for leading EXPO Esperanza and the Fatted Calf intern program. - Fatted Calf - Magdalena, Mexico

**ACCOUNTING-HR DISCIPLESHIP**
General accounting and administration, reach out and engage with local people, value and adapt to Mexican culture, and share the love and hope of Jesus Christ as a part of their daily lives. - CVE - Magdalena, Mexico

**HAITI**

**HOSPITALITY MANAGER**
This position will be responsible to receive and accommodate teams and other travelers at the Guest House. The Hospitality Manager will work closely with Haitian staff who assist in the operations of the guest house. - Les Cayes, Haiti

**MECHANIC**
This position would support the HarvestCall Construction, Well Drilling, Dairy, and Hospital Lumiere projects. They will be responsible to help maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment. - Les Cayes, Haiti

**ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER**
As the Dairy program continues to grow, HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist in the efforts at Good Vision Farm. - Torbeck, Haiti

**MEXICO**

**HOSPITALITY MANAGER**
This position will be responsible to receive and accommodate teams and other travelers at the Guest House. The Hospitality Manager will work closely with Haitian staff who assist in the operations of the guest house. - Les Cayes, Haiti

**MECHANIC**
This position would support the HarvestCall Construction, Well Drilling, Dairy, and Hospital Lumiere projects. They will be responsible to help maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment. - Les Cayes, Haiti

**ASSISTANT FARM MANAGER**
As the Dairy program continues to grow, HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist in the efforts at Good Vision Farm. - Torbeck, Haiti

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**Proclaim & Serve 2021**

**July 10 | Peoria, IL**

**Learning to Love As Jesus Loves**

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**REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 14**

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**PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

**FRIDAY, JULY 9**

6:30 - 9:30 PM

**MAIN CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 10**

8 - 5 PM

Hosted by

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in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico

HOSPITALITY MANAGER
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Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
### 2021 Team Schedule

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena: Congerville, IL</td>
<td>May 28- June 3, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena: Washington, IL</td>
<td>June 11 - 17, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena: Detroit MI &amp; Lamont, KS</td>
<td>June 25 - July 1, 2021</td>
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Questions about teams to Magdalena?
Contact: Adam Kaeb - operationscve@gmail.com

### Jamaica

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCCD - JDV</td>
<td>June 4-12, 2021</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg 815-641-9065 <a href="mailto:lindma@hotmail.com">lindma@hotmail.com</a></td>
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*If you are interested in sponsoring a team to Jamaica, contact Loren Dettwyler*

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If possible, I prefer:

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Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080
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Becoming Like Jesus

— Continued from pg. 3

down our lives for the brethren.”

While the fullest expression of this was Christ’s death on the cross, our daily lives present numerous lesser opportunities to sacrifice, subordinate or ‘lay down’ our ambitions or desires for another’s benefit. Ultimately this extends beyond our fellow believers to all people, even as Jesus said to “love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again … for he (God the Father) is kind to the unthankful and to the evil.”

In 1896 an American minister, Charles Sheldon, published a Christian novel titled In His Steps: What would Jesus Do? The fictional main character is a minister who begins by preaching that people need to exhibit the qualities of Christ and live as Jesus did. But this proves difficult, even for the minister. After he declines to help a homeless man in his community, the man interrupts a service, telling the congregation that in their lack of empathy and compassion they are not living like Christ. He then collapses, and dies a few days later. Profoundly moved, the minister challenges his church to take no action or make no decision without first asking “What would Jesus do?” The book became an immediate bestseller, and its timeless theme resonates strongly yet today. We can probably recall experiences that would have turned out better had we paused to ask what would Jesus do, or say, in that particular situation. But as we grow and mature spiritually, this should become an increasingly automatic, ingrained response. While we do not reach perfection in this life, we are continually working at improvement, as Paul noted “not that I have already attained (the goal of being Christ-like), either were already perfect, but I follow after …” (press on)

Finally, becoming like Jesus implies unconditional forgiveness. He said that “if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in Heaven forgive your trespasses.” Have we ever forgiven someone in our mind but not fully in our heart, perhaps grudgingly or out of necessity because of what Jesus taught about forgiveness? We need to “forgive and forget,” and while the forgetting may be difficult, this is how God sees us through the filter of Christ’s righteousness and sacrifice. We are exhorted to be “kind … tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

The opening lines of Zions Harp Hymn #164 express our calling and desire simply and directly: “O Savior might I thus as Thee / Like-minded, pure and humble be.” May he give us the grace and purpose of heart to continue growing spiritually and endure to the time when the process of becoming Christ-like is fully realized — “when he shall appear, (and) we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

Endnotes
1 John 1:12-13
2 Mark 12:37
3 Romans 12:16
4 2 Peter 1:5-7
5 Romans 8:28
6 Leviticus 19:2, 1 Peter 1:16
7 1 John 3:16
8 Luke 6:35
9 Philippians 3:12
10 Matthew 6:15, Mark 11:26
11 Jeremiah 31:34
12 Micah 7:19
13 Ephesians 4:32
14 1 John 3:2
nurture our love and have it come forth and be strengthened. That’s what we experienced in the last weekend. But the true test of love is when there’s a brother or sister or relationship where we’re struggling, where someone hurts us, or where we’re not seeing eye to eye. Then, that’s the real test, isn’t it, of this being knit together in the love of Jesus Christ? Being knit together in that love where we are willing to submit ourselves one to another in Christ Jesus. We’re willing, for the sake of the body of Christ and for the sake of having that unity of the spirit, to work through those things together in love, in understanding.

We think about how Jesus related to the different people around him. I think we heard just recently how he related to Peter when he denied him. The Lord looked on him, and what was that expression of the Lord? He certainly felt hurt and pain and yet, he was rooted, it says in another scripture, and grounded in love. What does that look like? What does that feel like when you’re rooted and grounded in love?

I’m sure every one of you could actually explain if you stop and reflect and think about it. When we’re rooted and grounded in love, that’s the source of our nurturing. If we think about being rooted and grounded, it’s strengthened over time by both the sunshine and the storms, and the root system grows deeper and stronger. It’s a system where there’s movement through that root system, isn’t there? It’s a lively system. There are nutrients moving back and forth, and that’s this love that needs to be moving back and forth in our hearts and in our lives. Out of that comes the sustenance and the strength to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

So, as we think about when something is knit together and the strength that comes from that, think too if you just had the different strands all by themselves versus when you knit something together. You get a garment that has a strength that’s beyond any of those strands by itself. If we think about the church body begin knit together in love, it’s a beautiful vision that Jesus has for what it is we experience together. If you think about something being knit together and part of it gets pulled, the rest of that garment kind of has to stretch and move a little bit and has to respond to that. You don’t just stay brittle right where you’re at, but there’s a movement within a garment that’s knit together. There’s a stretching and a giving that’s there. That’s what love is like. It’s not this brittle thing that says, “It’s my way, and you didn’t meet my expectations, and therefore I’m going to cut you off or I’m going to treat you different.” It’s a desiring, and when there’s a knitting together, it will naturally pull back together to the middle and back to that shape that’s together after it gets pulled this way or that way. That’s his desire that the body of Christ – we who are the body of Christ – would have those kinds of relationships together. In response to when there’s hurt or pain or struggle, we would be able to move and give and support one another.

That’s another analogy. If we think about the different strands of that garment, when one of them is weak, it’s a mutual support that makes that strength. It’s a beautiful thing when we experience that together. So, he desires then that we experience the comfort that comes from being part of that knitting, and he desires that our understanding would be grounded in the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Then, he talks about these enticing words. A lot of this chapter goes on and talks about being spoiled by philosophy and vain deceit and the rudiments of the world which are not after
Christ. I don’t know that I can explain this all the way, but I think a part of what he’s getting at here is being really careful about where our fullness, our identity is rooted, and that it’s rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ. It’s to be rooted in his love, the fruit of the Spirit, and the way that we interact with each other, and it’s not rooted and grounded in the traditions of men.

These people were having a struggle because it was Jews and Gentiles. Some of the Jews wanted to hold on to the old facets of the law, and they thought that their righteousness was established by the way that they looked and the traditions that they kept. Sometimes when we think about the world encroaching on us, we often think about that. He goes on here in Chapter 3 and says, “mortify your members and get rid of all the immorality that could be in your life.” That’s absolutely part of the world, but if we think about the philosophies, there are some that say you can partake of all those things. If it feels good, you can do it. It’s all about a self-absorption. Then, he’s describing another philosophy that takes it too far the other way where it’s almost overmuch trying to earn your way to heaven by doing specific things, things that make you appear humble, make you appear humble to other people, and forget that your sufficiency and completeness is in Jesus Christ. These people were struggling to realize that it was not of the law and all the rules of the law that they became righteous, but that it was through the love of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and mercy and grace of God that they were saved.

Paul would write to the Ephesians something really similar. It’s a verse all of us probably can say right off the top of our head. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:8-9). It’s not by works. It’s so important as one of the reminders of the scripture that as we think about the traditions we have – which are precious and valuable – that we don’t start to mistake them for righteousness. The moment we do that, they have gone from being a help to being a tremendous potential for deception in our own hearts. Let’s make sure as we just reflect on our own views of our own righteousness and what brings that righteousness that we understand that those things are helps but they are not our salvation. They are not ever to be mistaken for the core identity of a believer in Jesus Christ, that core which is this being knit together in love and being separate from the world, which is bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit, which showing his mercy and his love to one another, which is keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, and which is reaching out and doing good to those around us. Those are the marks of the true believer. Let’s always make sure we have that foundation clear.

Then there are other things that help to bind us together. We think about when we sing songs. Imagine if half of us were singing one rhythm and the other half were singing a completely different rhythm. It wouldn’t flow right, and we wouldn’t feel like one body. So, there are things we have that help us feel like one body. Those things are good and helpful, and we can support those things, but we have to keep them always in perspective and not to get confused. It talks here of those that were beguiling other people. Verse 19 says, “And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.” They were forgetting that it’s the head, and then he reminds them who the head is. It’s Jesus Christ. From that head flows “the body by joints and

— Please turn to pg. 64
bands and gets its nourishment.” All of us need to be connected into that head, and then the joints and bands are this love and care that we have one for another. Then, we minister one to another. We serve one another. We’re increased with the increase God.

He says, “You’re dead to the rudiments of the world.” I’m sure we’ve all heard this said before. Most of us have a nature to either desire rules or liberty: rules so that we can follow them, feel good about them, and have it feel really simple that we don’t have to think or look deep in ourselves and think about our true faith and where we look for mercy and hope and grace and love; and liberty because the scripture says there’s freedom in Christ Jesus which gives me freedom and liberty, and I should be able to sort of do whatever I want. Neither is a healthy perspective, is it? So, we need to find ourselves. If we’re knit together in love, we’ll pull one another into that balanced view where we’re willing to submit to one another for the sake of the body but always focused on our connection that’s in Jesus Christ.

I missed a few verses back here. He describes again being rooted and built up in him, established in the faith that we’ve been taught. We’ve been taught well. We’ve been taught the truth. We’re blessed. He wants us to ground and establish ourselves in that and then to be thankful, to abound in thanksgiving. It’s a wonderful thing, isn’t it, when we can abound in gratitude and thanksgiving and share our thanksgiving with each other? Then, he says, “Remember, you are complete in him.” You are complete in him. What does that really mean? He goes on and describes how we’re buried with him in baptism, that we were dead in our sins, and now we’re forgiven, and we’re quickened with a new life, a new heart.

So, let’s just think about that. Some of us might be natured to have a hard time seeing ourselves as actually favored by God. Thinking about when we repent and turn away from sin, that if we work really hard to be sorry for our sin and we try to put all those things away, maybe, then, we’ll just barely be good enough for God, and hopefully, he’ll forgive us. We might have this feeling that we’re just hanging on by a thread and that God is just barely satisfied with us. I don’t think that’s the feeling that Jesus wants us to have. Instead, he wants us to feel like we are complete in him, that it’s his righteousness that is imputed to us. It counts on our behalf. He fills in the gaps that we have. If we look to him in faith, when we stand there on that judgment day, it’s the blood of Jesus Christ for which we’ll be grateful.

I don’t think any of us are going to be looking back at our lives and saying, “I’m so glad that I was good enough. I’m so glad that I did enough service.” We might be thankful for the things that we did, but I don’t think any of us are going to be at that threshold of death thinking, “I did it. I made just enough. I did all the right things. I made it.” Even in the best of all our efforts, we’re going to have great imperfections. Verse 3 of the song about mercy in the Zion’s Harp shares how we’re going to have imperfections. So, he wants us to just fully grasp this in Jesus Christ: he is the head; we can rest! His righteousness is being imputed into our hearts. We can rest in his mercy. We can rest in the strength he is going to give us to get through the struggles of life. We can rest in his ability to help us, as a body, to maintain our love even as we have pressures all around us and we navigate things together. He is where we’re focused. He is where our hope is set. He is the source of our love. We don’t have to be afraid. We can rest in that sufficiency.

Might we take from tonight to just really ponder Jesus, his
love for us, that he brings us to a place. He came down to us and took on our sin so that he could bring us to a place where we are his. We’re brothers and sisters of Jesus. We’re part of God’s family, and he wants us then to work together as a body to glorify his name. May he help us have that rest and that care, and yet at the same time, to remember.

I want to close with these last three verses we read. If we’re risen with Christ, born with a new heart, there will be evidence of that. Nowhere does he ever give us a license to sin. “Well, I’m going to sin, therefore I’m going to go sin.” He never gives us the license to take sin lightly in our lives. He says, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” (Col 3:1-3) Our life is hid in Christ. If we’re going hide behind someone, what is seen? That person is seen instead of us. Might that be our desire to put on the persona of Christ as we go about our daily walk that our life would be hid in Christ such that when he comes again, we’ll be perfect and complete. Until then, we’re going to have our struggles. We’re going to feel like we’re not enough. We’re going to feel like we’re not complete, but by faith let us look to him and rest in his love.

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Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

The following comments are excerpts from “Our Heritage of Faith,” published in 1990. This is a continuing series of articles focusing on the origins of our faith and denomination.

Personal Data - Samuel Froehlich
Froehlich was slight of build and suffered early in life from lung troubles. The many religious conflicts and persecutions he endured gradually wore down his health. His early death at age fifty-three may have been due to the strain of his missionary activity and the battles he encountered with Swiss authorities.

Marriage - To Susette Brunschweiler
On August 28, 1836, Bro. Froehlich married Susette Brunschweiler of Hauptwil. Although their marriage was blessed by the united prayer of Froehlich’s congregation in Hauptwil, it was not sanctioned by the state church because it had not been performed by one of their ministers. This caused terrible problems for Froehlich and his bride. For almost seven years he was intermittently separated from his wife. Froehlich sought refuge in Strasbourg, France. His wife later joined him there, and their marriage was finally recognized and registered in the Strasbourg City Hall under the Napoleonic Code of Law.

Froehlich’s Death
As Froehlich lay on his death bed, his last words were, “I shall die, Lord my God. May Thou keep Thy holy ones from the temptation which is in the world, that they may not perish, but abide in Thee, and give them eternal life. For the prince of this world is prepared with his whole power of darkness, and preachers of unrighteousness, who seek to destroy Thy work and to mislead Thy elect. Thou knowest that I have not sought glory before men, but only sought to further Thy glory and have declared Thy name before all, and have not been ashamed of Thee and have fought until this hour.”

He then rasped at last, “My soul is saved and I am comforted in the Lord.” He expired on January 15, 1857, at the age of fifty-three and one-half years. His was a life of constant activity and diligence. At the end of six years of his ministry, he had established 14 churches; after fifteen years there were 55 congregations, and eventually there were 110 congregations. The movement also spread into the Balkan states and eventually came to America in 1947.

Methods of Ministry
Significant to learning about the work of Samuel Froehlich is to understand how he proceeded to establish so many churches. Often he would go into a town, as led by the Spirit, and inquire if there were any persons who were dissatisfied with the state church. He would meet with them and later hold meetings. Usually, there was a favorable response to his preaching and teaching.

Because so many of his early followers had Catholic, Lutheran, or Reformed backgrounds and were rooted in the doctrine of infant baptism and other questionable doctrines, Froehlich published two booklets: "Baptism: Who Shall and Who Shall not Be Baptized?" And he wrote, “The Mystery of Godliness and the Mystery of Ungodliness.” The former dealt with baptism and the latter with scriptural truth as Froehlich perceived it. These two booklets were very helpful in giving people a better understanding of the doctrine which Froehlich promoted. Followers of the doctrine advocated by Samuel Froehlich faced persecution and harassment, often being required to defend their faith to magistrates and other authorities. This persecution led to a firmer conviction of their faith which gave them courage to stand firm when challenged by authorities or by friends and neighbors.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

Atonement in Action:

This recent season was unique for many of us; navigating the ups and downs, uncertainties and surprises of living through a pandemic. Last year at this time COVID-19 was a new thing, and for many churches around the world Easter services might have been the first “cancelled event” that made the news. Novelty became a shocking reality. Today, living in a pandemic is the “new normal” but for many congregations, as vaccines and herd immunity allow for reduced restrictions, Easter services last month might have had some of the greatest in-person attendances in over a year. Weather was changing, colors were bursting forth, showing that God’s cycle of new creation is always present, just as we meditated upon the power of the resurrection.

And yet, as we think about resurrection and new creation, no doubt we also carry burdens, cares and concerns. Many of us lost loved ones in the past year, and it has not been easy. Therefore, we look forward to when new creation includes new heavens and new earth and new bodies, when death is no more. We read of this promised inheritance in Col 1:11-20: “Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature… And he is the head of the body, the church…And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself.”

Further in Ephesians 1:11-14 Paul exclaims “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance…In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the down-payment of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

Paul then teaches us in 2 Cor 5:17-20 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ.”

We are ambassadors of reconciliation, or think of atonement in action. The word “atonement” comes into our English language first in the Wycliffe translation (1395) to indicate “reconciliation to oneness” using the words “at one ment” and then combined into “atonement” in Tyndale’s translation (1526) and the King James (1611). When we dwell upon the love of God, that he would give of himself to make us one with him, we often lack words. And then, consider, that he invites us to participate with him in his ministry of reconciliation! It is “at one ment” in action, moving forward every spring, every day. We navigate the here and now moment by moment, yet always anchored in the hope of the resurrection already accomplished and the one yet promised.

-by Blake Widmer
The flowers appear on the earth; ...

Song of Solomon 2:12