... even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.  
2 Thessalonians 2:16
Peacemakers and Edifiers

Following Jesus includes self-denial that promotes his way of peace and builds up his body. Are we willing to prioritize Christ’s peace and goodwill over protecting personal pleasure? Determined to avoid stumblingblocks, we seek to serve Christ in righteousness and Spirit-filled joy. Thus, we “… follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another (Romans 14:19).” In this effort to walk charitably, share what you’ve witnessed. What inspirations have you encountered regarding following after peacemaking? How has God blessed believers’ willingness to edify others?

In our September 2021 issue, we plan to feature reader submissions about peacemaker blessings and pleasing neighbors for their good to edification. Send your contribution (600 words or less) on “What have you learned about pursuing peacemaking and edifying one another (Romans 14:19)?” to features@acsilverlining.org by July 15, 2021. Please share what you’ve gleaned about following Christ’s example as the Prince of Peace who gave himself to edify the church.

Peaceably uplifted together,
Sam Manz, Silver Lining Features

Correspondence
For July issue
(news from May 16-June 15)
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for the:

Apostolic Christian Church
We Follow the Great Commission Under the Authority of Jesus

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

The final words of Jesus to his followers in the gospel account of Matthew have been termed “The Great Commission”. Although apparently spoken only to the remaining eleven disciples, we believe the present-day church should continue to carry out all his commandments. We, the followers of King Jesus, are called, as his original followers were called, to go, and make, and baptize, and teach. All of these actions are sandwiched between the recognition of the authority of Jesus and his promise to remain with us forever: “All authority has been given to Me… I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

In short, we are not authorized to do or teach anything that Jesus did not do or teach. And, if we are doing his will, we can be confident of his presence.

We are entrusted with the responsibility, but the authority is the Lord’s. It is he alone who will be with us always, in the form of the Holy Spirit, as we go into the world as people under the authority of King Jesus. We are endowed with the blood-bought power of Jesus Christ through the presence of his Spirit to bring his love and his message to “all the nations.” What does this mean? It is helpful to look at the final account of all four gospel writers; each offers a unique perspective on the Lord’s final words, but John’s gospel expands the message to include a vital motivator. Without love, it is futile to share the gospel.

Matthew’s writing is the most concise; thus, it is the most commonly known. Jesus’ message according to Matthew is perfectly clear: Go, make disciples, baptize, and teach - all under the authority of Jesus Christ and with the full awareness of his presence. Mark ends his account similarly: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Here Jesus talks about baptism as well, coupling it with belief. Mark also records Jesus’ words regarding signs which will follow those who believe. Luke simplifies the commissioning message a bit with these words from Jesus: “Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Finally, John refuses to depart from the themes woven throughout his gospel account by concluding with a conversation between Christ and Peter, in which Jesus commissions Peter to lead God’s people motivated by Peter’s love for Jesus. “Do you love Me?” Jesus asks Peter three times. With Peter’s affirmative response, the calling resounds: feed (pasture) the Lord’s lambs, tend (supervise) the Lord’s sheep, and feed the Lord’s sheep.

Each account offers an important perspective on what it means to follow the call of God and bring the kingdom to all nations, all peoples, all languages. There is a big picture message for the Church as a whole - the Kingdom of God in our hearts, under the authority of Jesus our King and spreading throughout the world, as God’s people move and live and bring peace into chaos, light into darkness, and hope into despair. The message for each individual is here as well. Let love be your motivation: love for God even above love for others. The call for each individual

— Please turn to pg. 63
As we have the opportunity this afternoon to open the word together, we’re just going to have a single reading because of the conference update that will follow. It’s opened this afternoon for our reading in the book of Galatians, chapter 3.

As I referenced the song that we sang in this morning’s service about the unshakable faith of Abraham, even now we’re going to read about some of that faith and justification being by that faith. We are the recipients of Abraham’s faith. Think about Abraham; his life predated any of the Mosaic law.

We, as humans, like to know what to do. I kind of like having a list of things because it’s seems a little bit easier, if you will. Thou shall. Thou shall not. Thou shall. Thou shall not. If you do those things, you’re on the right track. I can look at a list and see how I’m doing, but anymore we live by faith. We have to live a life of faith and a life of discernment, and in some ways it’s much more difficult, and in some regards, it’s much easier. Being discerning individuals takes some studying, takes some effort, takes time in the word and being grounded in it. So, justification by faith: let’s start at verse 1.

I always loved Galatians and the arguments it lays out. Maybe I’m just a little simplistic, and I don’t want to oversimplify it, but justification by faith really takes away the fact that Dan brings anything to this equation in regards to salvation. It brings it down to the ultimate level playing field that we’re all sinners. Every one of us, whether we see ourselves that way or not, need salvation. It’s what the word says: we are all sinners. We are all in need of salvation, whether we actively recognize it or we’re not quite willing to admit it yet. We’re all in need of salvation. When we hold ourselves up in front of God and his perfectness and his holiness, we’re wretched.

I’m thinking about myself and who I am. When I have worry or doubt, is that not a lack of faith in the person of God and his ability to care for me? When I want to do things on my own or when I want to bring my righteousness to the table because I think I can help God out in his plan of salvation, that’s sin. Whenever we try to substitute anything for what Christ has done for us into that plan, it’s an error, and God is calling us back. Where did this thought come from? Where did this idea come from that we should stray from the pureness of the gospel that is in Christ alone, through faith alone that we have hope, that we are justified?

I never liked to be called foolish. What he’s saying is that when we add our human element into that equation, it is foolish. To think that we’re going to add something to God’s plan for all mankind. That is foolish. Just as it would foolish for me to tell God how to do his job with the weather or how fast to spin the earth as it goes around in space. I really have no context how to tell God anything. That would be foolish. Yet for some of us humans, we like to slip back into works – it’s easy – because it makes us feel good like we’re doing something. It gives us something to boast about a little bit even if we like to think about it that way or not. What it comes down to is that we like to think maybe we’re adding something or that we have something to offer, and God is like “No, that adulterates my perfect plan of salvation to mankind.”
So, are works unimportant? Works are important to me. I don’t know how it is for you. It seems like kind of odd statement. This guy is talking about faith alone, and now, he’s saying, “Well, works are kind of important.” Works are important to me because that’s what ministered to me when I was an unconverted person. I think more ministry was probably done out playing ice hockey on the Elgin church pond in the wintertime or doing Sunday school activities with our Sunday school teachers than I ever remember hearing coming over the pulpit. Why? Because they met my needs where I was. They were becoming interested and involved in things that I wanted to do. They ministered to me in an arena that I could understand. They showed love. They showed care, but they didn’t compromise. Works are important.

Being a horticulturist, or having a horticulture background, has shown me it’s like fruit on a tree. What is the express purpose of having fruit? It’s so we would disseminate seeds. Even on a fruit tree, the whole purpose of any kind of fruit – any kind of plant really – is that that seed would be deposited somewhere else, and it would grow into another tree and produce more fruit to carry on.

We can’t get those things mixed up. We are justified by faith when we all come to the point that it’s not about me, not what I bring to the table, but it’s about the work that God has done. Our sin – and nothing is identical among us – brings us to a point that we can say, “You know what? We are ALL in that miry pit, and we need to be brought out.”

Then, when we have that understanding, when we feel that grace and peace, we would feel forgiven. That’s a message you want to spread. We don’t contain it and keep it to ourselves. We don’t want to bury it in the sand. What an atrocity that would be. How foolish that would be. The law has a purpose in this whole thing, doesn’t it?

How many people here are active speeders? I’m not looking for a show of hands, but how do you know that you’re a speeder? Because everybody who does have a driver’s license has the ability to see a speed limit sign, and if we have a working speedometer in the car, we can see if we’re over that. It’s an over simplification, I know, but that’s why the law was put into force. It was so men would know that they are sinners.

Is there anybody in this room that can say they perfectly obeyed their parents up until this very moment in time. I can’t get past that commandment. I’m condemned by the law. Take whatever one of the ten commandments you want, and I’m guessing you’ve never done it perfectly. So, the law was given so that we would all come to that place where we say, “You know, I see that I have not measured up to even ten things that God said I should do.” It’s a short list. Ten things. How hard is it to get ten things right in your life? Well, for me, I can’t even get one of them right. It says the law was given that all men would know that they’re sinners and that something needs to be done.

We have a perfect God. I don’t know how many people here came out to Arizona and had the opportunity to visit the Grand Canyon at some point in time. For anybody that’s been to the Grand Canyon and sat there looking at that great divide, they saw the wideness of it. If you see yourself on one side of the canyon, is it possible for you to take a step and cross that great chasm to the other side? No. It’s impossible. The same is true about us. In our humanness, we’re like the person on the one side of the Grand Canyon facing this great chasm, and that great chasm is our sin that separates us from a holy God that would be on the other side. The only way

— Please turn to pg. 64
Ministry Program Updates

Through Times of Trouble – We Can Count on God

Caribbean Committee

Eight years ago, little baby Dorebla was born into a family in Southern Haiti. As Dorebla grew, her parents discovered that she had been born with cerebral palsy. Dorebla did not seem to be severely affected in her early years, but as she grew older she experienced difficulty walking and standing. Her condition, known as cerebral palsy equinus, is characterized by stiffness in the ankle muscles making it difficult to bring the top of the foot toward the front of the leg. As a result, Dorebla would end up on her tip toes when she walked.

As Dorebla’s condition interfered more and more with her childhood, her parents began to seek help. They went to six different places, but no one could offer help. The only advice they received was to seek out medical care in Cuba, which was not an option for their family. Finally, they visited the clinic in Citie Lumiere where they were advised to go to Hospital Lumiere. Thankfully, they finally found assistance at the hospital.

At Hospital Lumiere an operation was performed by a visiting surgeon, Dr. Robert Belding, to release Dorebla’s Achilles tendons. According to Dr. Belding, the surgery was successful; after a six-week recovery, the range of motion in Dorebla’s ankles should improve.

When I met with Dorebla and her mother Merline, they were awaiting discharge from the hospital and it was obvious they were very happy. “I cried when I was first told Dorebla would need to have surgery because I was afraid. But now I am happy because she is no longer suffering,” said Merline.

Merline told me they are Christians and that they attend the MEBSH Church near the airport in Cayes. Merline and her husband’s faith in God sustained them as they sought help for Dorebla. It had been a long journey. Merline’s favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:31 – “What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” The happy ending to this story is a good reminder to all

Business-as-Mission in Magdalena

Mexico Committee

The Fatted Calf, established in 2009, a non-profit ministry of HarvestCall has worked alongside the efforts of the local church and Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE) to make an impact in the community of Magdalena de Kino, Mexico. The mission “To glorify and obey God by sharing the gospel and discipling believers through kingdom-driven business practices, training, and trust-based relationships” has been the guide in establishing three business entities and several outreach programs.

Carnísimo, the first business unit established, is a meat processing facility that makes meat snacks, smoked sausages, pizza toppings and provides meat products to local restaurants. Rancho Agua Viva cattle ranch, since 2015, provides profitable beef genetics that thrive in the Sonoran Desert, and teaches and demonstrates effective ranch management practices. Opening its doors in 2018, Carnísimo Burgers is a restaurant that serves great tasting burgers in a pleasant, family-friendly environment. Using the business-as-mission model to attract and disciple souls in the work environment, these three business units hire local people and young adults that no longer reside at CVE and provide the opportunity to share the love of Jesus in the community and to mentor and train employees with effective, gospel-centered business and training initiatives.
Mexico Committee  

Business-as-Mission in Magdalena  

Caribbean Committee  


through Times of Trouble – We Can Count on God  

Ministry Program Updates  

A meat processing facility that makes meat snacks, several outreach programs.

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Belding, to release Dorebla’s Achilles tendons.

When I met with Dorebla and her mother

The mission of Hospital Lumiere is to provide excellent and effective medical care with compassion and Christian love. As Hospital Lumiere goes through a period of uncertainty and possible transition, your continued prayers and support are essential so that those in need can continue to find help and that God can be glorified.

“It is truly precious to contemplate Jehovah as the patron of the poor. He has left such in the world to test the hearts of those who are better provided for, and He accepts what is done with compassion, to relieve the needy, as so much done for Himself.”   

H.A. Ironside   

– by Rich Bertschi

animal projects that they have worked on during the summer break. The Fatted Calf Intern program invites college-age students to experience a summer in Mexico helping the children at CVE with their projects for Expo Esperanza. The Scholarship program is targeted to current and former residents of the children’s home or students at the school on campus to help facilitate individual career goals and assist them in the funding of a technical school or university degree in Mexico.

For more information about The Fatted Calf, the website and news blog can be found at www.thefatcalf.com. To learn of opportunities to serve as a missionary with The Fatted Calf, go to www.harvestcall.org/missionary-openings.

– by Ann Wulf  

Employees of Carnísimo Burgers.

Dorebla with her mother Merline, recovering after her successful surgery at Hospital Lumiere.
Technology: Be Intentional

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.”

Technology is a venue which can reveal the contents of our heart. It can be used to facilitate great good but also can become a conduit for evil. As society continues to change around us, being mindful and intentional of the impact which technology can have in our lives and the lives of our family is important. Technology needs to be stewarded in our lives, just as other areas do as well. Identifying how technology can be used for evil and engaging in ways to teach and protect against those things in your home is important. Likewise, it is important to teach and model how believers can use technology in a healthy manner.

Questions to begin discussion as a family:

• What aspects of technology do we consider good, evil, and morally neutral?
• How much of your child’s day do you want him/her interacting with technology?
  o How much time will your child need to spend interacting with technology to complete necessary tasks? (i.e. school work) How much time do you want technology to be used for non-necessary tasks, pleasure, or relaxation? (i.e. learning about trivial things, engaging social media, reading/listening to/watching things they are interested in, communicating)
• What impacts (social, emotional, physical, and spiritual) are you seeing from your family’s technology use?

Training Your Child:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

A consistent thread throughout Scripture is that God uses experiences to train his children. Parenting is both a joy and a challenging journey. One of the aspects of parenting that makes the journey both full of joy and full of challenge is navigating the shift from a helpless infant to a person who has their own thoughts, beliefs, and ability to engage those thoughts and beliefs. Through this journey the parent is encouraged to “train up a child” (Proverbs 22:6) so the child is able to know and follow God’s commandments as they get older. This journey is often full of disagreements between the parent and child about how much freedom vs. parental oversight is needed. The child often feels more confident to engage in choices than they should, and often the parent has difficulty giving additional freedoms to a child who is still growing and maturing. Technology can become a battleground for parents and children. It is a venue by which the contents of the heart of a child can be revealed, whether good or evil (see Matthew 15:17-19). This insight into their heart can
provide tremendous teaching moments. It also lays out why it is so important to start engaging this topic while your child is young and continue to see the topic as an opportunity for discussion and training with your child in truth throughout their life.

Further ideas for parents to consider in regards to technology:
• How will you train your child to think about technology? What biblical principles do you want to encourage?
  o How will you teach your child to avoid evil, engage good, and develop self-control?
• Communication and modeling are two significant aspects of training and teaching.
  o How, when, and with what frequency will you communicate with your child concerning the topic of technology?
  o What and how will you model what you desire to grow in your child? (consider Deut. 6:4-9 above)

Questions to Consider When Developing a Technology Plan:
As you begin to craft a technology plan for yourself and/or your family, there are several key questions to consider. Some questions are very practical while others are more directional in nature. Answers to these principled questions will begin to shape what type of technology environment will be present in your home.

Teach:
• Are you using technology as an opportunity to teach proactive principles?
• Ex. – Are you teaching the difference between the “accidental exposure” to inappropriate content vs the “intentional pursuit”?
• How will you use technology to build relationship and as a springboard for discussion?

Engage:
• How much time each week would you like your entire family to be together? What do you want this time to look like?
• What are the ages of your children in your home? How many and what type of devices do you have in your home which connect to media?
• When and where will access be allowed? Who will be accessing technology with them (parent, friends, alone) and what determines which is appropriate?

Learn:
• What resources do you need in order to make good decisions?
• When and how will you review your plan in order to see if changes need to be made?

Protect:
• Do you have appropriate boundaries on all of your devices?
• How will you allow greater access to technology but also maintain the ability to monitor and protect your family? When does a child “earn” greater access?

While the above article gives an initial understanding of technology in the home, there is much more to consider when creating a plan for your family. The complete Family Technology Plan resource is available in the Technology theme of the ACCFS website (www.accounseling.org/technology). Other resources are available on this portion of our website which can assist as you seek to steward God’s principles in this area today.

Key Resources:
• Breaking Bread Podcast Technology Episodes
• Internet Filtering/Monitoring Quick Reference
• Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids
• Technology Principles
Apostolic Christian
LifePoints
www.aclifepoints.org
@aclifepoints on Facebook or
Instagram
Ashlyn Gramm-Mission
Communication Coordinator

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Heb. 13:17

Apostolic Christian LifePoints is owned and operated under the authority of the Apostolic Christian Church of America’s Elder Body. In other words, our bylaws establish that this mission is held directly accountable to the Elder Body, similar to Gateway Woods, ACCFS, and HarvestCall. From the beginning, the Board of Directors for LifePoints and the Elder Body developed a strong and trusting relationship. Because this trust was established early on, the Elder Body’s current oversight of LifePoints’ operations is relatively light. The Elder Body receives annual reports from LifePoints, summarizing the financial wellbeing and operations of the agency. The Elder Body also maintains authority over purchases and sales of land or property, and the use of donations to the endowment fund. The relationship between LifePoints and the Elder Body is quite interactive and can best be illustrated by the process of appointing members to LifePoints’ Board of Directors.

Every year, a new member of the Board of Directors needs to be selected to serve a nine-year term. The process begins with the Board asking the Elder Body to submit candidates from specific geographic areas (local or out-of-state) who could offer helpful skills, like teaching or accounting, in addition to a heart for serving this mission. There are three counseling elders who attend LifePoints’ Board meetings and serve as liaisons to the rest of the Elder Body during this process and at the Elder Conferences. The Elder Body will typically give the Board three candidates to interview, and the Board will then present the new member to the full Elder Body for approval.

The Board of Directors is responsible for recruiting and overseeing the Executive Director of LifePoints. The Board also has the authority to hire additional staff, but that task is typically delegated to the Executive Director. The Executive Director and other management staff regularly meet with various Board committees — Building, Grounds and Equipment, Personnel, Finance, and Executive — to develop initiatives and proposals for LifePoints. The Board itself meets six times a year and uses these meetings to approve the committees’ proposed initiatives, approve major financial transactions, and determine the amount of money to be used for wage increases and retirement benefits.

In total, there are five levels of authority at LifePoints: the Elder Body, Counseling Elders, Board of Directors, Executives, and Department Heads. This division of leadership has worked well for our organization, largely due to the deep level of trust that has been developed between the members in authority. We at Apostolic Christian LifePoints praise God and give thanks for consistently providing this mission with godly leaders who share our heart for serving those in need.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Ed Graf — Executive Director

Greetings to all of you: brothers and sisters who faithfully serve kids and families through the ministry of Gateway Woods!

Wow! We have been through a year! You know, it was about
this time last year that I came to you with the news that there would be no live Auction for 2020. That was hard. It was disappointing. It was painful. But it was the right thing to do. And do it, you did! In spite of all the challenges, Auction 2020 was another record year, and by a lot! For this we really thank you. Your love, prayers and support have been felt greatly throughout these pandemic times.

Now, here we are. One year later and we have another Auction decision to make. We’ve all been patient, and we’ve all had changes, challenges, trials, and disappointments. And you know what? When it comes to this decision, there’s so much to consider. People are in different places and have different health and medical situations. Our Auction Committee has done their best to give careful, prayerful consideration to the matter.

That said, with humility, yet excitement, it is my pleasure to announce, that on **Saturday, August 7, 2021, we will host the 45th annual Gateway Woods Auction, live, under the tents, and on campus, in Leo, Indiana. We will also, simultaneously, operate an online auction similar to last year!** We believe this solution allows at least some participation for all, at the level they feel most comfortable. Now, there are some disclaimers. As things stand right now, we have clearance to do the Auction live and on campus. That said, if conditions change, causing new restrictions, we will re-evaluate all plans. Also, many of you recently took a survey gauging your comfort level with a live auction. You overwhelmingly supported a live auction on campus. Yet, in that survey, many of you also expressed a desire for some additional precautions. We hear you, and we will respond accordingly, but we aren’t yet in a position to detail those precautions. To the best of our ability, we will conduct this Auction legally, and safely, for everyone.

I mentioned earlier that there will be both a live and online Auction running simultaneously. The online auction will have only a portion of the sale items. Whether one is on campus, or off campus, for whatever reason, everyone will be able to participate in the online auction. But… If you want the succulent, smoky grilled pork chop sandwich, a salty and deliciously greasy curly fried potato, or a refreshingly tart and sweet lemon shakeup, for that, you will need to come to campus. There’ll also be about 1,000 additional auction items on campus that you won’t be able to bid on online.

So, to wrap up, thank you. You’ve been a rock of support in a trying time. We love you and we need you. And we sure look forward to seeing you either in person or online on August 7!

Thank you. May God bless you, and may God bless Gateway Woods.

**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 Teacher 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.
- Summer is upon us and that means there are lots of volunteering opportunities at Gateway Woods! If you are interested in giving your time and talents, please contact Keith Schambach, at keith.schambach@gatewaywoods.org or via phone at 260.627.2159.
- We are excited to announce Bro. James Drayer (Leo, IN) as our new Summer Education Intern.
• We also are thankful to announce that Harlan Kupferschmid (Champaign, IL) is our new GW Farms Summer Intern.

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

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Matt. 6:33-34

We are reminded in scripture to have faith in God and not to worry, but we also have a human nature that urges us to worry. In these troubling times we need to be on our knees and in the Word so that God will give us his peace.

We ask for continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis, Sis. Clarann Lynn, Sis. Joyce Ray, and Shawn Ray who have all had health issues lately.

If you are passing through our area and need a place to stay for the evening, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815.674.5411 for our guest house accommodations. We love having visitors and encourage anyone passing through to spend some time with us.

Arizona, Phoenix
Margie Lindenbaum

“Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.” Prov. 22:17

My dad was a person who often had to be intentionally heard, although his bass voice could also boom. I think of him when I read this Proverb, as he wanted his children to listen and heed his words, but never forced it upon us. He has been gone a long time; 29 years. His voice is still in my mind, especially the phrases he used often or emphatically. The memories can occur spontaneously and sometimes they are intentional. I still talk to him on occasion to see if I can figure out what he might tell me about a thing. He was not a man of many words, and rarely offered unsolicited advice. He seldom came off as any kind of expert, but he embodied godly wisdom. He would speak in generalities more often than providing specific instruction.

“There is a way people can avoid having to pay for a speeding ticket if they can’t afford it.” I was all ears! “Don’t speed.” Lately, I have been remembering him reading the Bible to his family. He never seemed comfortable in the spotlight, and I believe he may have been intimidated by handling the Word to some extent, or maybe by reading aloud. I confess; I did not often listen and process the words he read. It was a thing we did after dinner (supper) every night. I remember times when he would just stop reading, and I figured out as I grew older that it was emotion that stopped him. More than the words he read, I recall the reverence he had for the Word, and the seriousness he exhibited when he handled it. I remember many times of laughter at our dinner table, and maybe my memory is just not all that good, but I do not recall laughing or cutting up while we were reading. He had a great sense of humor and would laugh with us often. I do not recall him ever making light of the Word.

He was taken suddenly and unexpectedly, and there is a lot we did not have time to talk about. In the years since he has been gone, God has grown me considerably. I am excited to see him again and catch up on all the things we missed discussing. What a gift, to be able to spend eternity doing that, with everyone who left us too
soon or too suddenly. And even sweeter, we will see our Heavenly Father face to face and be able to experience his love as fully as we did our earthly fathers. I am confident my dad heard, “Well done” when he reached his Home. To all the fathers reading this, I encourage you to “Google” studies reporting the effect of fathers on a family, and the effect of an absent father. I wish you a Happy Father’s Day and hope you understand the immense impact you will have on your children, just by being present in their lives.

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Eph. 6:4

We mourn along with her family the passing of our dear Sis. Edith Freed, yet rejoice in her victory. She was a quiet but powerful pillar in our congregation, who has been missed since our gathering was limited last year and will leave a void in all the hearts she touched while she was here with us. Please keep her family in your prayers.

As the heat intensifies in the desert, and summer approaches, we are mostly back to our year-round residents and anticipate a few months of smaller gatherings. We send our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Daniel (Lexi Stoller) Knochel, who will be married by the time this edition is published, Lord willing. May God richly bless your union and continue to draw you closer to each other as you draw near to him. In the words of my father, “May all your troubles be little ones!”

Arizona, Prescott

Autumn Rokey

We are excited for Sis. Alexa Furrer graduating high school. She plans to attend nursing school next.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) come again to review our church vision and mission statement. It was refreshing to come together after an eventful year and refocus as a church body on our love for God and each other.

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

Arizona, Tucson

Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings to all. This month we have returned to two services and are enjoying the added fellowship time as well as the blessing of the Word. Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) were our visiting ministers. We were blessed to be served Communion by Elder Bro. Ben and are so thankful for his servant attitude.

After serving in Magdalena, MX for 10 years, Bro. Duane and Sis. Ann Wulf will be making Tucson their home church. We welcome their family into our small but growing congregation.

We rejoice with those who rejoice, and we sorrow with those who have sorrows. We extend our sympathies to Bro. Kevin and Sis Annie Wulf at the passing of Annie’s mother Sis. Lois Metzger (Lester, IA). We know God’s plans and timing are best and we know he can comfort as no one else can.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena

Kali Sauder

“He the Head and we His members; He the light and we the glow; He the Master, we his brethren, In true fellowship we grow.”

The Fellowship of the Saints, Zion’s Harp, #33

“In him was life; and the light was the light of men…That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” John 1:4,9

We have experienced God’s power to overcome the darkness with his light in this dark season, and we are moved to praise!

Restored fellowship is such a sweet and welcome way to praise God together; one we learned not to take for granted! This month some of us were able to meet again with our San Diego congregation neighbors both for a social picnic halfway between our regions and again by visiting either in person or via Zoom for baptisms in San Diego.

“The Fellowship of the Saints” in the Zion’s Harp captures well the joy of re-experiencing the “glow” of the Body of Christ, lit up by Jesus himself. May the world see our light shining, a beacon of love, joy, and hope in a dark world!
Colorado, Denver  
**Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller**  
This past month we had several opportunities to appreciate and lift up the women in our church family. Denver’s annual women’s retreat was held over a weekend in the mountains, for women out of high school and above. The theme this year was “Love God, Love People” and we were encouraged to start our days digging deep and with the right priorities. Spending time together away from many of life’s distractions is such a blessing and helps strengthen our relationships in the body. Mother’s Day was another wonderful day to recognize the work God does through our mothers, and it was a joy to see many families together on that day.

We are sad to say goodbye to Bro. Clayton and Sis. Dominique Blunier as they move to Taylor, MO. We wish them God’s blessings with this transition and look forward to their visits back to Denver.

Connecticut, Rockville  
**Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider**  
On Sunday, May 9, the elder ordination service for Bro. Brent Walder took place in the afternoon. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY) assisted our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) in this work. Our prayers are with Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi and their family as he assumes these additional duties in the church. We are grateful to Bro. Kevin for his wise counsel and faithful leadership of our congregation in his service as our shepherd for nearly thirty years.

There was much rejoicing as we heard the testimonies of three dear souls: Sis. Rose Walder (Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi), Bro. Baiju Joseph (Sis. Lavanya) and Sis. Kayleigh Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Deanna). What an encouragement to witness their baptism and rejoice with the angels in heaven.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Chris Moser (Sis. Sue), as he recovers from a recent injury.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Fredricka Whitman (Bro. Will), Sis. Linda Leite (August), and Wilma Foley (John) in the passing of their brother, Bill Zahner.

We also extend our sympathy to Jessica Bahler (Kurt) and Tanya Hoffman (Dan) in the passing of their father, Robert Townsend.

Saturday, April 24, many hands joined together on a beautiful spring day to clean up the church yard as well as inside the church. May the Lord bless each one!

Florida, Fort Lauderdale  
**Renee Mangold**  
We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this month, Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Tim Wiegand (Leo, IN). We pray for a blessing on them for their service.

Congratulations to Bro. Tim and Sis. Bonnie Troxel on the birth of their baby girl, Sarah Faith born April 27. We are delighted to welcome this new addition to our church family and pray that the Lord will bless and watch over her all the days of her life.

The church has approved to install a new sign by the road
to welcome all to worship with us. This is one of the projects resulting from the church assessment that was done in early 2021. We are thankful for God’s leading in this direction as we seek to further his kingdom.

Starting May 23, we plan to return to our regular Sunday schedule of having two services, separated by an hour of lunch and fellowship.

We are again thankful for God’s provision and protection as we gather to worship. In June, we plan to start our summer Bible Study during Sunday afternoon services. The topic will be prayer. This will nicely support and augment our Friendship Report efforts to more effectively build relationships and be more prayerful and intentional in sharing the gospel. We’re excited as we trust God to lead and teach us in this area.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger

“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him…” Col. 2:9-10

“The whole of Christ, in his adorable character as the Son of God, is by himself made over to us most richly to enjoy. His wisdom is out direction, his knowledge our instruction, his power our protection, his justice out surety, his love our comfort, his mercy our solace, and his immutability our trust. He makes no reserve, but opens the recesses of the Mount of God and bids us dig in its mines for the hidden treasures. “All, all, all are yours,” saith he, “be ye satisfied with favor and full of the goodness of the Lord.” Oh! How sweet thus to behold Jesus, and to call upon him with the certain confidence that in seeking the interposition of his love or power, we are but asking for that which he has already faithfully promised.”

Spurgeon, Morning and Evening

We are back to just our summer faith family, which is small in number. We welcome any who will be heading this way for their summer vacation to join us for worship!

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Colin and Sis. Lynelle Steidinger and family at the passing of Colin’s grandfather, Bro. Al Zimmerman (Sis. Melba, Forrest, IL). Bro. Al was also step-father to our Bro. Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea). May they each find Christ’s comfort as they mourn his passing.

**Florida, Sarasota**

Sandra Kaeb

“How brave a ladybug must be! Each drop of rain as big as she! When large drops of rain fall, she never sighs; Or sits and longs for sunny skies! Can you imagine what you’d do; if raindrops fell as large as you? Could you just smile and calmly do; The work that God has given you?” Aileen Fisher

Our prayers this month are for Sis. Linda Leite in the passing of her brother, Bill Zahner (Ellington CT.); Gary and Mary Kay Rumbold, as Gary was recently hospitalized and is now recuperating at home; Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evelyn Hangartner as some in their family have had health issues and Sis. Becky Funk for her brother Jim as he is having health complications.

On May 1, we had our Sunday school picnic at the Millers pavilion. The students had a great time together playing while the adults enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to the teachers and all who had a part in putting this together.

For Mother’s Day we thanked our godly mothers who taught us the way by example. On Mother’s Day our Sunday school students helped served lunch and passed out roses for the mothers.

On May 11, Bro. Schuyler and Sis Melanie Brown welcomed Ezra James to their family. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart (Lamar, MO).

Sis. Becky Funk will be the new writer for the Sarasota congregation. We know she will be blessed as she shares her expertise with the updates and activities that happen in Sarasota.

**Georgia, Peachtree City**

Elise Funk, Brenda Stoller

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”. 1 Tim. 4:12
We are thankful to have two high school graduates this year. They are Bro. Wynn Waldbeser (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Chloe Steidinger (Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana). May God be with them and direct their steps as they pursue their next chapter in life.

Graduation Prayer, The Lord Will Lead You

"Now that you’re celebrating Your graduation day, Your whole life is ahead of you, And the Lord will lead the way. Just trust in Him to guide you In His divine and perfect will. If you’ll pray and read His holy word, His plan you will fulfill. Whatever happens in your life, On the Lord you can depend. There’s nothing you can’t handle With Jesus as your best friend."
Joanna Fuchs

Haiti, Les Cayes - Hospital Lumiere
Mike and Susie Walder

This month it was time for us to say farewell to Sis. Sheila Moser as she relocated back to her home in Sabetha, KS, after living and serving in Haiti for 13 years.

Sis. Sheila was originally here in Les Cayes when the earthquake occurred in 2010. Immediately after the earthquake, she was part of the group that was assigned to live and assist at Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin. After many enjoyable years running the guest house there, she returned to Les Cayes to operate the guest house here the past few years.

We all appreciated Sheila’s “can do” attitude and her willingness to help in any way necessary as she served the Haitians and the missionary body at large here. Many teams over the years have been blessed by her travel planning assistance and her wealth of knowledge about anything Haiti.

As a goodbye gesture for Sis. Sheila, we were all invited to the dairy farm in Torbeck on a Sunday afternoon for a meal and Bible study. Thanks to Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Knobloch and to Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller for hosting this special time.

May God bless you Sis. Sheila with an abundance of grace and peace as you find your new routine and new places to serve in the Sabetha area. We can’t imagine you will be sitting down for long!

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Num. 6:24-26

Illinois, Belvidere
Darcy Steffen

An interesting fact about the Belvidere church is that almost half of our families are Wisconsin residents. Because of this, we tried something new this month on a Wednesday night and traveled to Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene’s barn in Wisconsin and spent time singing praises to God. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship, and we plan to continue doing this once a month.

Pre-Covid, we had a tradition that during the summer months, the Elgin and Belvidere congregations would take turns hosting one another one Wednesday evening a month. We were grateful to be able to do that again; it was a joy to have such a full church! Bro. Dan Cargill (Sis. Stephanie, Prescott, AZ) blessed us by encouraging us through God’s Word.

We were also encouraged by Elder Bro. Duane Rocke’s preaching and reading of the Spring Memorandum. We enjoyed catching up with some of his children who came with him, as well!
We are grieving the loss of my grandma, Sis. Kathryn Steffen (Morton, IL), mother to Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol). We are grateful the Lord took her gently home, but we miss her so much. We often spend our moments after someone dies thinking of their attributes and actions toward us. I remember the taste of her French silk pie, the way she pressed our cheeks between her hands as she kissed us hello, her infectious laugh, and the way she loved to host events at her house, especially for her friends. As I was remembering her, it made me realize that someone else has also died, and we need to be remembering him and his attributes and actions toward us: how he died for you and me, how he showed his great love and compassion to us in giving us salvation and his Word, and how he is preparing a place for us in heaven.

"My heart can sing when I pause to remember
A heartache here, is but a stepping stone
Along a trail that's winding always upward
This troubled world is not my final home.
But until then my heart will go on singing
Until then with joy I'll carry on
Until that day my eyes behold the city
Until the day God calls me home."

- Until Then, Stuart Hamblen

**Illinois, Bloomington**

*Kinsey Dotterer, Lauren Zimmerman*

We enjoyed a blessed weekend hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Bro. Alex Hurtado, Bro. Liam Gehring (Bro. Jr. and Sis. JoEllen), and Bro. Ben Steffen (Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) with us for the weekend.

We mourn with Sis. Marilyn Hany upon the death of her husband Bro. Bob. Our prayers are with her during this time of loss.

We rejoice with Kayla Nussbaum; daughter of Bro. Will and Sis. Lexi who has given her heart to the Lord.

We celebrate with our high school graduates Sis. Autumn Brim (Bro. Trace and Sis. Denise), Amanda Edelman (Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Mya Kaeb (Bro. Kory and Sis. Megan), Sis. Paige Kaeb (Bro. Clint and Sis. Jami), Maggie Kaufmann (Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie), Sis. Hannah Martin (Scott and Sis. Erin), Thad Steffen (Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley), Macy Stickling (Bro. Delayne and Sis. Lori), and Bro. Isaiah Streitmatter (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara).

**Illinois, Bradford**

*Becky Endress, Lena Stoller*

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, o my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: for she is thy life." Prov. 4:7-13

As our six seniors have finished high school and graduated, we offer a prayer that they may choose wisdom. These dear young people whom we have watched grow from infancy to adulthood are: Laura Endress (Elder Bro. Bruce and Sis. Elizabeth), Maria Endress (Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie), Dustin Moody (Jennifer Moody), Leah Pyles (Bro. Troy and Sis. Heather), McKenzie Stahl (Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill), and Ryan Stahl (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal). We love you all and wish you good success all through your lives.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Anita Koch welcomed a precious little son, Charles William. Born on May 1, 2021. Little Charlie has a sister and a brother, Jamie and Jordan, to love him. Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch (Tremont, IL) and retired Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH) are his loving grandparents.

Lately we have had increasing opportunities to welcome visitors at church.
Among these were ministering Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL). We're glad when they come to visit their family here.

**Illinois, Champaign**
*Brent Young*

We gathered again as the body of Christ to share Holy Communion together. It was a wonderful opportunity to remember and proclaim that our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ has died, risen, and will come again! We extend our thanks to our Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for sharing Communion with us, updating us on the elder conference, and sharing God’s Word.

As a potential sign of slow return to normalcy, we had several other visiting ministers this month. We are grateful to Bro. Jeremy Leman (Sis. Shara, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin/Bastrop, TX), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO).

Our Sis. Kirby Eckerty exchanged wedding vows with Bro. Jesse Fischer (Austin/Bastrop, TX). We wish them all of God’s richest blessings and look forward to having them as part of our church family.

Once a month, our Sunday school students gather for Youth Night and this year they went around the world, learning from missionaries about various places like Haiti, Japan, and Papua New Guinea, among others. We finished the year with a program that included memories of the year and songs in several languages. A great deal of time and effort is invested on behalf of our youth and it is greatly appreciated!

The class of 2021 includes five graduates this year from Champaign. They are Sammie Beyer (Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla), Braden Finch (Sam and Sis. Dawn), Zachary Travis (Andy and Kim), Sis. Addie Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy), and Brooke Walder (Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth). We wish them all the best and pray that they will seek God’s guidance every step of the way.

**Illinois, Chicago**
*Diana Eisenmann*

We extend thanks to our visiting ministers: Bro. James Schneider (Sis. Tonya, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO).

In the past month, we continued our Wednesday evening Guiding Principles Bible Study and enjoyed our first in-person Women of the Word event in over a year.

We rejoice with Alea Messner and her family (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey) as she has shared her desire to follow Jesus.

Alexandria Avramovic was born on April 30 to Milan and Heather. We praise God for the gift of new life!

Sis. Kay Steffen (Morton, IL) passed away in May. She was the grandmother of Bro. Shayne Fehr (Sis. Emily). Our prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**
*Denise Kaeb, Lou Ann Kaeb*

God has abundantly blessed us with showers of rain this past month and showers of spiritual blessings as well!

Bro. Nathan Walder had our April topical Bible presentation on the subject of Ministry. Thank you for sharing with us, Bro. Nathan.

On April 25, the Bible Class hosted the Bloomington and Morton Bible Classes for ACYF day. We thank Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) for coming to share the day with us and speaking to the Bible Class.

Elinor Knapp (Norman, dec.) passed away. She was the sister-in-law of Sis. Marilyn and Sis. Lucile Knapp and Wes Knapp (Judy). May God comfort them in their loss.

We were blessed to have Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) and their family here on Mother’s Day. We enjoyed having them back home for the day! We appreciated Josh’s willingness to share God’s word with us!

Also on Mother’s Day, we enjoyed having our young group serve our noon lunch. It was good to see their joy in working together to serve others!
“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psa. 127:3

It is so exciting to announce the arrival of sweet little Malea Rose to the home of Bro. Justin, Sis. Amanda Kaeb and big brother Rylan. We wish them much grace as they raise their little family. Malea’s grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann and Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Kaeb.

We also have five high school graduates this year! Audrey Kaeb (Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie), Weston Maul (Bro. David and Sis. Vicki), Brad Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol), Kristen Walder (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise), and James Yergler (Jared and Julie). We wish them God’s blessings and pray they will look to him for direction for their future.

“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

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Krista Wieland

We sadly bid farewell to our Bro. Caleb Schrock (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel) as he moves to the West Bend, IA area for work. May he continue to feel God’s peace and guidance wherever life would lead him.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing with us over the repentance of two more souls, Logan and Kierstyn Dietrich! He is the son of Bro. John Dietrich. We wish them much grace and wisdom as they turn their lives to God and raise their young family.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Zimmerman are rejoicing as they brought home their sweet daughter, Wren Auden. Big brothers Myles and Hudson, as well as grandparents Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen Zimmerman and Sis. Gay Knapp are enjoying this precious bundle!

On May 2, our church was full with many brethren for our invite-a-guest! We especially appreciate the willingness of ministering brothers who lent themselves on our behalf: Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS), Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL).

“…a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Eccl. 4:12

Trusting in the Lord’s guidance, Sis. Jessi Kieser (Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Austin Blunier (Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann, Eureka, IL) announced their engagement. We pray for continued peace for them through this special time.

On May 15, many gathered to witness the wedding of Bro. Jacob Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) and Sis. Elise Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy). May they feel God’s nearness through this special time as they blend their lives together.

Bro. Brad Wiegand (Sis. Deanna, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) served us in the Word on this occasion.

Note of Thanks
I want to thank each one that had a part in the prayers, loving support, and deeds of kindness and thoughtfulness these past few months in the passing of my dear brother Dick and my total knee replacement surgery. The flowers, food, cards, and memorials were all appreciated very much. May God richly bless each one of you for your prayers and deeds of kindness.

Mike and Mary Schieber

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL) for ministering to us on Mother’s Day, following the morning service at Highland Oaks. Special thanks also to Bro. Eric Weiss, who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, May 5, on 1 John.

Bro. Anthony and Sis. Kaysha Eason welcomed their first child, Jeremiah John, born on April 20. His grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia Blomgren (Lester, IA) and Bro. George and Sis. Carol Eason.

Sis. Edie Anliker (Bro. Gary) recently had cataract surgery.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Bill Kinsinger (Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Wava Steffen (Bro. John) in the passing of their sister, Sis. Kathryn Steffen (Bro. Earl,
dec. Morton, IL) on May 8. Her visitation and funeral were in Morton on May 15, followed by a private graveside service in our church cemetery.

There was a walk-through graduation reception on Sunday, May 16, under the church carport immediately after church, honoring our 2021 graduates: Blake Martin (Tony and Kenda), Lucas Schambach (Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee), Sis. Sarah Schambach (Bro. Jason and Sis. Karen), and Leah Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg, Belvidere, IL).

“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

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

“Kind words can never die, cherished and blest;
God knows how deep they lie,
stored in the breast.”
Kind Words, Hymns of Zion #163

How the kind words and sayings of our mothers linger in our memories. Yet the words we didn’t hear, those that they spoke to God in prayer, perhaps have the most impact of all on our lives today. This reminds us to keep kindness in our own words, and to keep praying, no matter what. “Kind words” was the theme of our Ladies Spring Brunch. We were very grateful to hold it again this year, having skipped last year due to COVID-19, and we were thankful for all who could attend.

Our hearts are saddened for Sis. Lisa Banwart (Bro. Jeff and their family). Her brother-in-law, Dan Haverman (Mona, Cedar Falls, IA), died suddenly, and will be sorely missed.

We are so thankful for the visiting ministers who brought the Word to us. Thanks to Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL).

Seeing the high school students worship with us is so encouraging. On April 25, Eureka hosted Bible Classes from the Bradford, Peoria, and Congerville congregations. Their singing after the afternoon service was a special blessing.

Locally, we extend congratulations to our high school graduates: Colby Blunier (Bro. Dean and Sis. Beth), Morgan Blunier and Emily Phillips (Bro. Merle and Sis. Michelle), Silas Cottrell (Bro. John and Sis. Gloria), Cory Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), Cade Walder (Bro. Brad and Sis. Carla), Burke Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi), Konner Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina), and Elle Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara). We also extend congratulations and well wishes to those in our congregation who have graduated from college. May you find God’s direction in your future careers and all that your future journey holds.

We learned more about HarvestCall through an interesting evening in April. Bro. Andrew Cottrell and Sis. Lena Zimmerman shared their experiences with the HarvestCall Rebuild in Marianna, FL, this spring, and Bro. Todd and Sis. Zoe Stoller explained their work in Magdalena, MX at CVE. It is impressive to see what God can do with willing hands and hearts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those recently in the hospital or who have had operations: Sis. Helen Fisher (Bro. Eli, dec.), Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia, dec.), Sis. Phyllis Leman (Bro. Scott), and Bro. George Baer. We are thankful for their recovery. Several others in our congregation also face serious health challenges, and we trust that God knows the future and will give them strength to face whatever comes.

Bro. Austin Blunier and Sis. Jessi Kieser (Congerville, IL), have felt God’s leading to become one in the Lord. His parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Luann, and her parents are Bro. James and Sis. Jennifer. We wish them God’s leading as they plan their wedding and begin their life together.

We rejoice with Doug and LoriJean Wood, parents of Sis.
Katie and Bro. Matt, who have expressed their desire to be part of our brotherhood and fellowship. May God continue to lead them in their walk with Christ.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger*

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psa. 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Reid and Sis. Tiffany Zehr on the birth of their daughter, Alyssa Joan. Welcoming Alyssa home is big sister, Shaelynn. Grandparents are Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen and Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan Zehr. We pray God will bless this little family.

“Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.” Prov. 4:7

Our high school graduates this year are Sis. Maria Leman (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim), Sis. Darla Meiss (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati), Bro. Josiah Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Loren Moser (Sis. Julia and the late Bro. Doug), Tyson Ruiz (Jason and Gina), Justin Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth), Katherine Steffen (Bro. Clint and Sis. Jenny), Tyler Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Rachel Stork (Bro. Bill and Sis. Shay), Sarah Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae), Josh Woodrey (Jason and Amy) and Ashley Young (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bev). Our college graduate is Bro. Milan Leman (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim). We pray that these graduates will look to the Lord to lead them as they step out into another phase of their lives. Learning will continue. May they be blessed with the true wisdom and understanding from the Lord.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA) here to minister the Word to us. We thank Bro. Matt and his family for their efforts.

Bro. Randall Fehr (Sis. Janis) has spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful Bro. Randall is home again and on the road to recovery and will continue to lift him up to the Lord in prayer.

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz*

As the earth warms with springtime temperatures, we see the evidence of new life all around us; whether it is the bright color of newly opened flowers or the fresh green of the sprouted seeds pushing through the dirt. Even more precious is the evidence of new life in our dear family of God. We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Abby Eisenmann as their daughter, Lily, turned to God in repentance. We are also thankful for Bro. Jay and Sis. Jolene Mueller as their son, Tucker, began a new walk of faith.

Three dear couples welcomed new life into their hearts and home recently. Oakley John joins big sister Kaiya in the home of Bro. Trevor and Sis. Amanda Edelman. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany Edelman and Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman. Bro. Troy and Sis. April Slagel, along with older brothers Tristan, Cole and Bennett, welcomed Eden Rose. Rejoicing with them are grandparents Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel and Will and Sis. Juanita Kaeb. Big sisters Aleya, Gracelyn and Kinley were excited to meet their new brother, Tucker Bradley, son of Bro. Shannon and Sis. Brianna Gudeman. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Doug and Beth Rinkenberger.

We thank Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) for being willing to preach the word. We also pray God’s wisdom and guidance to our Sis. Lori Leman (Bro. Ben) as she begins teaching in Sunday school. Though the story they share is old, the mercies of God are new every morning.

Looking forward to beginning a new life together is our Sis. Heidi Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Joe Lavallier (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeannette, Gridley, IL). May God direct and bless them as they begin this new journey together.

As our graduates complete this chapter in their lives and begin new journeys, we pray God’s protecting hand over each of them. Congratulations to Anthony Brown (Bro. Joel and Sis. Lana), Sis. Kelsey Edelman...
(Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Kira Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie), Sis. Marissa Lanz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha), Jayna Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise), Sis. Chloe Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Alayna Nussbaum (Bro. Lucas and Sis. Raya) and Janelle Slagel (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jodi).

Bro. John Schaffer (Sis. Sally) recently spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful he is able to be back home and pray God will continue to be near. Our prayers are also with Bro. Waylon Knapp (Sis. Ashton) during his recent hospital stay and various surgeries due to a farming accident. It’s during times of uncertainty when we become certain of God’s faithfulness and love toward us.

Our prayers are with the family of our Bro. Al Zimmerman as he was laid to rest. May God comfort his dear wife, Sis. Melba, and children Sis. Shelly Steidinger (Bro. Ray), Sis. Cinda Fehr (Bro. Ivan), Holly Steidinger (Glen) and Bro. Kent Zimmerman (Sis. Paulette).

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption... It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body...” I Cor. 15:42, 44

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

Spring is such a busy time of year with everything bursting with new life and milestones being met as our students finish the school year. We have seven graduating seniors this year and we want to wish them well as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Sammie Barcikowski-Fisher (Ron and Beth), Sis. Marissa Herrmann (Bro. Ross and Sis. Kitty), Gavin Knapp (Jodi), Bro. Toby Plattner (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan), Joel Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina, Bluffton, IN), Jayci Swords (Bro. Kris and Sis. Heather), and Karly Wiegand (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay) were honored at the senior breakfast on May 16, followed by graduation later that afternoon. Blessings to each one as they and their families adjust and set new normals.

Also, on May 16, our dear Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and we were privileged to have their entire family worship with us! We appreciate the loving example they have been over the years to our church family and pray the Lord blesses them with many more happy years together.

Along these lines, we have two new married couples to celebrate with. On April 18, Bro. Lakin Dietrich and Sis. Abby Feucht became one in the Lord. Bro. Lakin is the son of Bro. John Dietrich (Congerville, IL) and Renee Dietrich, and Sis. Abby is the daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht (Washington, IL). Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) was here to share in the wedding service for this dear couple and we thank him for his labors on our behalf.

Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ) was also here visiting family and we are always excited when they visit. May God bless both these brothers and their wives!

On Saturday, April 24, Lois Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen) became the bride of Mayson Lehman (Tom and Kathy Lehman) and we surely extend our love and good wishes to them as they establish their home together.

We rejoice with Bro. Gage Bauman and Sis. Kaylie Schlipf on their engagement. Also rejoicing in this union are their parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman.

Another milestone is the growth of our church family and we are excited to introduce our four newest additions. Cash Aaryn Gerber arrived on April 12, to bless the home of Bro. Mark, Sis. Kendahl and big brother Rhett. Cash will also be loved by grandparents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Jake and Shari Evans.

On April 24, Leisel Jane was born to Bro. Will and Sis. Jamie Rokey. Big sister, Sylvia and grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary Wiegand and Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey also welcome her with love.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Blunier are thankful for the arrival of Abigail Sue on May 15. Little Abigail is welcomed home by her siblings, Laura, Ella, Jubal, Garrett, Tylin, Lucia, Melody and loving grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis Blunier, all of Goodfield.

We are thankful for a new convert, as Mya Wiegand (Bro. Ron and Sis. Cass) has surrendered her heart to the Lord. May she feel the love and prayers of her church family.

Specific prayers have been uttered for many who are facing health issues, surgery, or treatment of one type or another. Bro. Don Ott, Sis. Paula Hartman and Gail Ames' mother are several that have requested prayer and all seem to be doing much better as of this writing. Our dear Sis. Susie Wyss (Bro. Dale) is scheduled for open heart surgery, and we ask that you pray with us for God’s will to be accomplished through this surgery. Sis. Susie told the surgeons to be prepared for the extraordinary as she serves a great God. What a fantastic attitude!

Prayers of sympathy go out to our Sis. Barb Ricketts (Bro. Norm) as she said goodbye to her brother, Marvin Wettstein (JoEllen) from Georgia and her sister-in-law, Alice Wettstein (Wayne) of Eureka. Our sympathies to Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger in the loss of his brother, Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). We always appreciated Jim and Jeanne’s visits to Goodfield. Jim was also the grandfather of our Sis. Hannah Grimm (Bro. Matt) and we lift them up in prayer and sympathy as well.

Sis. Alice Nohl is safely resting in the arms of Jesus as she has finished her earthly race. She was just a month shy of 100 years old and was survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

**Note of Thanks**

We would like to thank everyone for the love shown to us in the passing of our father, Bro. Roy Roth. The food, flowers, cards and gifts of love were very much appreciated. God bless you all.

The family of Bro. Roy Roth

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

We are happy to report the testimony and baptism of Lane and Alyse Dohman, and welcome them as a new brother and sister in faith. They are the son and daughter of Bro. Tony and Sis. Amanda Dohman. May the Lord be with these young souls as they devote themselves to him.

A firstborn child was born to Bro. Logan and Sis. Rachel Kaeb. He was named Bodee Dennis. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb, and Dennis and Lorene Kaeb (rural Fairbury). God be with these parents in training up this child in the ways of the Lord.

Bro. Jacob Schlipf, Jr. was announced to marry Sis. Mary Leman (formerly of Bluffton, IN).

His parents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Amy Schlipf; and her parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman, (Bluffton North, IN).

Sis. Kayllynn Schlipf was announced to marry Bro. Gage Bauman (Goodfield, IL). She is the daughter of Bro. Jason and Sis. Jamie Schlipf. He is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman (Goodfield, IL).

We surely wish these newly-engaged couples the grace and joy of the Lord, as they seek to follow God’s will which was revealed to them in choosing a lifetime companion in matrimony.

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner**

“O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.” Psa. 107:1

We thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue) with the Holy Communion service held on April 17. It was a very special evening sharing the Lord’s Supper with a large number of our brothers and sisters, as many more are feeling comfortable with gathering in-person.

April 18 Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Caleb Schafer (Sis. Laura, Indianapolis, IN) shared the Lord’s word with us. They and many of the Schafer family were in Morton to help Bro. Mo and Sis. Alice Schafer celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Also
celebrating a special anniversary that day were Bro. George and Dee Taylor who have been married 65 years. We congratulate these couples as they mark this special time in their life.

We welcome Bro. Nicholas Wuethrich, formerly of Francesville and West Lafayette, IN who has moved to Morton and is worshipping with us. We pray he feels our love, as we feel his.

We congratulate our Sis. Tori Sauder, (Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Eric Hartter, (Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill, Washington, IL) whose engagement was announced on April 25. We wish them God’s blessings as they plan for their July 18 wedding and life together.

Sunday, May 2, we enjoyed an evening singing praises to our Lord at our monthly hymn sing. The three year old through third grade students were excited to share the songs they have learned in Sunday school.

May 5 our Family Worship Night was led by our Bro. Kent Levy (Sis. Holly) as we honored our high school graduates: Kyle Braker (Bro. Tim and Sis. Rachel); Sophia Kaufmann, (Bro. Brad and Sis. Tonya); Victoria Leman, (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth); Bro. Lucas Rassi, (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Brody Tanner, (Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn). Bro. Kent gave all of us thought provoking instruction as we were challenged on how we spend our time with regard to the use of modern technology and social media. We pray our graduates look to God for guidance and direction as they follow their chosen career.

“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

Three dear families have said farewell to a loved one. Bro. Elmon Koch (Sis. Janice, Tremont, IL) was the grandfather of our Sis. Angie Schick (Bro. Justin). Bro. Lyle Martin (Sis. Mary Lou, Roanoke, IL) leaves a sister Sis. Betty Yergler in our Morton church family.

May 8 Sis. Kathryn “Kay” Steffen (Bro. Earl, Dec.) entered her Heavenly home. Surviving are two daughters, Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Bro. Mike) and Sis. Linda Fehr (Dave) both of Morton and two sons, Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and Larry Steffen (Susan, Fraser, CO). We extend our deepest sympathy to these families in their loss.

We are still on our COVID-19 schedule with services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. with a snack in between. However, on May 9, as we celebrated Mother’s Day, our Young Group was given permission to serve their traditional lunch of hot sandwiches, chips, (packaged) cookies and drink that we could eat in the dining room or take home. We thank them for their labor of love in serving us in a special way.

We want to thank our many friends for sending cards, e-mails and phone calls for our 70th wedding anniversary. We thank God for blessing us with these many years together.

In his love,

Bro. Mo and Sis. Alice Schafer

“Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother’s arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
Oh, may this bounteous God Thro’ all our lives be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,
And free us from all ills, Sustain us to the end.
All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost, Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore,
Who is and shall survive, Now and forevermore.”

All Come and Thank the Lord, Zion’s Harp # 236

Note of Thanks

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We thank them for their labor of love in serving us in a special way.

As we slowly get back to worshipping in a more “normal” way, we thank God for providing for us and blessing us in the past year in more ways than we can count.

“Illinois, Peoria

Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

“Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation, Hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation! That hand obey

“Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mother’s arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love, And still is ours today.
Oh, may this bounteous God Thro’ all our lives be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,
And free us from all ills, Sustain us to the end.
All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son and Holy Ghost, Who dwell in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav’n adore,
Who is and shall survive, Now and forevermore.”

All Come and Thank the Lord, Zion’s Harp # 236

Note of Thanks

We want to thank our many friends for sending cards, e-mails and phone calls for our 70th wedding anniversary. We thank God for blessing us with these many years together.

In his love,

Bro. Mo and Sis. Alice Schafer
Which oft has pointed the way
To the dear Saviour’s salvation!”
Tarry Not!, Zion’s Harp, #168

We rejoice that Ivan Carlson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith) has answered the Lord’s call and is seeking him in repentance.

Our only high school graduate this spring is Sis. Grace Meister (Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary). Graduating from eighth grade are Ivan Carlson (Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith), Alecia and Isabel Hoerr (Bro. John and Sis. Serena), Saige Rumbold (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Heather), and Gabe Waibel (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa). We pray for God’s protection and blessings for these dear ones!

Bro. James and Sis. Jane Rieker have a new granddaughter to love. Fallon Jade was born May 5 to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Erin Rieker. Big brother Creighton has a sister to love.

Bro. Caleb Roecker presented a program on HarvestCall at our May family night. There are so many ways to spread the gospel and so many in need of God’s love!

“There’s a call comes ringing o’er the restless wave,
Send the light! Send the light!
Let us pray that grace may everywhere abound,
Send the light! Send the light!
Let us not grow weary in the work of love,
Send the light! Send the light!”
Send the Light, Melodies of Praise, #214

So many from our congregation have been in our prayers for healing! We rejoice in improved health for a number of these but continue to pray for strength and patience for others knowing God is in control.

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isa 40:31

Illinois, Princeville
Ruth Herrmann, Cherie White

“We can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies...
Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” Prov. 31:10, 30

An honorable tribute in remembrance of Mother’s Day.

“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” Gen. 2:18

Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Sis. Claire to Bro. Joe Metz (Champaign, IL). His parents are Bro. Daren and Sis. Rita Metz (Gridley, IL). Bro. Peyton Martin and Sis. Morgan Knapp (both of Washington, IL) announced their desire to become one and planning a June wedding. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin and Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp (Washington, IL).

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh.” Mark 10:7-8

Sis. Cherelle Steffen, daughter of Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna, and Bro. Abram Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), were united in marriage on April 18.

“Look upon my affliction and my pain.” Ps. 25:18

Remembering those who have been struggling the physical afflictions are Sis. Frances Knobloch and Joan Rumbold (Raymond).

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

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller and Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy Shively (Bluffton North, IN) welcome another grandson, Declan Andrew Shively born to Bro. Drew and Sis. Alivia on April 25.

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Rom. 10:15

We were served by visiting Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto MI), Elder Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Bro. Nate Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI), and Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Mediapolis, IA).

“To everything there is a season.” Eccl. 3:1

We warmly welcome Sis. Mallory Blunier back home after living in Denver, CO for the past five years.

“A time to weep.” Eccl. 3:4

Crossing the finish line into the arms of Jesus is the passing of Bro. Ray Wagenbach. Surviving are his wife Sis. Betty and children Raylene Getz (Jerry, Roanoke, IL), Daryl (Kenna, Toulon, IL), Curtis (Mary Beth), Karen Elsasser (Kenny, Dunlap, IL) and Dennis (Jennifer, Toulon, IL). Also, surviving are sisters Sis. Bernice
A victory has been won for Sis. Marie Menold on her passing from this life into eternity. Surviving are children Bro. Mike (Sis. Sharon), Bro. Fred (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Rita (Washington, IL) Connie Hoerr (David, Edwards, IL), Karen Schrock (William, Mediapolis, IA). Also surviving is sister Laura Leuthold, sisters-in-law Sis. Shirley Leuthold (Peoria, IL) Betty Menold, Sis. Martha Stoller (Bradford, IL) and one brother-in-law Bro. Joe Stoller. May the comfort of our Lord Jesus embrace the Wagenbach and Menold families in the days ahead.

Ilinois, Roanoke

Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer) led our Bible study “No Greater Love” on April 18. Bro. Matt encouraged us that this time of COVID-19 has hopefully taught us how to love people who disagree with us. And perhaps this time is preparing us to love those who will one day persecute us.

We said farewell to Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman and their family who left to go back to New Guinea where Bro. Fred serves as a helicopter pilot. We are so thankful for Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi’s commitment to the outreach of the gospel. Bro. Fred encouraged us to not be distracted by all that is in our culture which can draw us away from following Christ. And he encouraged us to be like the Israelites when they lived in tents as they were journeying to the Promised Land.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.” 2 Tim. 4:7

Bro. Lyle Martin went to his heavenly home on May 3. His survivors are his wife, Sis. Mary Lou; sons Randy (Jan, St. Cloud, FL), and Lenny (Karen, Normal, IL); and a daughter, Kris Moore (Brian, Springfield, IL). Also surviving are his sister, Sis. Betty Yergler (Morton, IL), nine grandchildren, and twenty-three great grandchildren. Lyle and Mary Lou loved to invest in others by showing love and hospitality. Lyle tried to keep a positive attitude even through the disappointments of life. The Martin family loved to sing, and Lyle was a pillar of our church.

Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) led our topical Bible study “Sharing Jesus’ Love in our Homes, Church, and Community” on May 2. Just as Christ has shown us his abundant love and mercy in saving us, we
can then share that same love and mercy with others, which will then point them to Christ.

The Tremont church hosted our Bible Class for ACYF Day on April 25. We thank the Tremont church for their kind hospitality.

On May 5 we had a “National Day of Prayer” eve service. Several young brothers offered a prayer of confession, and prayers for the hurting, for families, for our nation, and for the nations of the world. We also sang several hymns. It was a beautiful evening of praise and worship and also of petition as we brought our needs and the needs of others before God’s throne.

Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Frank in the reading of the Memorandum on May 12. Bro. Frank announced that we will be voting for a new minister or ministers in the near future.

Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie) led our topical Bible study “Cultivating a Committed Christian” on May 16. Bro. Nate exhorted us that the goal of discipleship is to teach, train or mentor someone so that they are able to repeat the process or do the same thing. Often the best way to mentor or disciple someone is by example, by doing life with others, and living out our Christian walk. We thank all of our ministering brothers for their exhortations.

Brittney Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha) and Jack Jones, son of Jack Sr. and Carol Jones of Bellevue, IL, were married on May 1. Bro. Jesse Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette), who attends the Austin/Bastrop, TX church, was united in marriage to Sis. Kirbi Eckerty (Champaign, IL), daughter of Monica and Troy Abbott and Bob Eckerty, on May 9. On May 16, Bro. Eddie Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shari) and Sis. Jessie Jones (Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie, Washington, IL), became one in the Lord. We pray for God’s rich blessings on these dear couples as they establish their homes on God’s word.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodie Sauder are first-time grandparents with the birth of Callahan William to Mason and Taylor Shirley of Roanoke on April 14. Violet June arrived to bless the home of Bro. Evan and Sis. Elisabeth Zimmerman (Congerville, IL) on April 11. Grandparents Denny and Sis. Karen Leman are also rejoicing at her arrival. Zane Henry was born to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman (Remington, IN) on May 14. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein and Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. May God richly bless these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

There have been several residents and staff in our Roanoke nursing home who have tested positive for COVID-19. A number from our church have willingly volunteered to serve in various ways in the Home so that the residents can continue to receive needed care. We thank our nursing home staff and all those who assist in caring for the residents there.

We want to continue to lift up Bro. Mike Hodel, Sis. Jan Getz, Annie and Dennis LaFountain (daughter and son-in-law of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Hangartner), Lyn Fuger (sister of Sis. Jan Getz), and Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb) in prayer for our Lord’s healing mercies.

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

Our Bible Class hosted ACYF day, and we welcomed the Chicago, Belvidere, Elgin, Roanoke, and Washington students. We thank Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) who came to be with the group, along with our Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane). Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL) spoke to us at a family night; his topic being “God and Money.” We were instructed that God Owns Everything, he is in control of all things, and he will supply our needs. Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) was with us Mother’s Day morning. We thank these brothers for lending themselves on our behalf.

Our prayers have been with those who have said goodbye to loved ones. Bro. Elmon Koch has won his reward, and our prayers have been with Sis. Janice, and her children, Sis. Paula Wagenbach (Bro. Marvin), Bro. Kappy (Sis. Gayle), Bro. Chuck (Sis. Cathy), Sis. Luci, and Marie Williams (Andy).
Our sympathy to the family of Sis. Lois (Wagenbach) Metzger (Bro. Jim, Lester, IA; in our congregation: Bro. Dave Wagenbach, Bro. Ron Wagenbach (Liz), Sis. Jeannette Beutel (Fred), Sis. Kathy Rocke, Sis. Barb Wagenbach and Sis. Lavonne Wagenbach.

Bro. Jon Zimmerman (Sis. Nichole) and Sis. Charity Oswald (Bro. Jeremy) said goodbye to their grandmother, Sis. Kay Steffen (Morton, IL.)

Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch have had lots of excitement in their family, and are rejoicing with the addition of three grandbabies! Bro. Michael and Sis. Holly Koch and Pheobe are thrilled to add Eli Michael and Ellie Jo to their family! Charles William Koch was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Anita (Bradford, IL.)

We rejoiced with Sis. Rebecca Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Matthew Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) as they joined their hearts and lives together as one in the Lord. We wish them much happiness and joy as they assemble with the Washington congregation. Our best wishes also to Laurie Trumbower and Cory Gouliard as they were united as husband and wife at our fellowship hall. We are happy to have them assemble with us.

We welcome Bro. Philip and Sis. Cyrena Rassi and boys to our congregation, and pray they will feel our love for them as they assemble with us.

### Illinois, Washington

#### Lillian Pfaffmann

We have had two more engagement announcements! Sis. Morgan Knapp to Bro. Peyton Martin, both of Washington. Their parents are Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin (Princeville, IL). Also, Bro. Eric Hartter is engaged to Sis. Tori Sauder (Morton, IL). Their parents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter and Bro. Todd and Sis. Wendy Sauder (Morton, IL). May the Lord bless each of them in all ways as he knows best as they plan their lives together!

Two of our engaged couples are now husband and wife! Sis. Jessie Jones (Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie) and Bro. Eddie Moser (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar, Roanoke, IL) were married on May 16. Also united in Holy Matrimony were Bro. Matt Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Rebecca Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) on May 8.

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Num. 6:24-26

Thankful for answered prayers as Bro. Dan Heinold (Sis. Carol) underwent open heart surgery for a valve replacement this week and received a good report! Now we intercede for a smooth recovery.

### Indiana, Bluffton

#### Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen

“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.” 1 Sam. 12:24


We rejoice with the engagement of Sis. Adrienne Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. LouAnn) to Bro. Braden Isch (Sis. Brittany, Bluffton North, IN). We pray for God’s blessings in their future together!

Little Cash Aaryn was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Kendahl Gerber (Goodfield, IL). Local grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli Gerber. Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jessica Tonner welcome Gus Timothy into their family. Gus joins brother Hank at home. Grandparents are Bro. Tom

We are thankful to welcome missionaries Bro. Nathan, Sis. Rachel, Kaine, Halle, Layla, Daisy Mueller back to Bluffton for their furlough. Our prayers are with them during this time as they work on translating the book of Mark into the Maliyali language.

Bro. Troy and Sis. Alexa Fiechter and their girls have moved back to Bluffton after living in West Lafayette for nearly 7 years. We are thankful to have them with us again!


Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Jeanne Rinkenberger as her husband, Bro. Jim Rinkenberger, passed away after some health issues. We also extend our love, prayers, and sympathy to Sis. Mary Jo Troxel (Bro. Bob) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Jeanne Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Ps. 116:15

We continue to pray for those in our congregation who have battled illness throughout the past month.

“Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the
foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” Eph. 1:2-4

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” Matt. 6: 9-13

As this example demonstrates, let us remember to first give praise to our father in heaven. Faithfully trusting our father knows what is needed for the day, and for our redemption. Let our requests be made known unto God through prayer, with thanksgiving for all he has done. Then let us remember to accept God’s perfect will in our lives.

We were blessed this month with several visiting ministers. Following the HarvestCall Board meeting on April 24, Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) blessed us with the message on Sunday.

Elder Bro. Curtis Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCross, IN), and Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), instructed us as we seek selection of an ordained deacon for our congregation. Also visiting for Mother’s Day and a wedding, were Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL). We are so blessed to be open to visitors once again. What joy!

Our prayers are with Bro. Art Novotny and Doug Gutwein (Mary Lew) as they face health issues.

The Huber family requests prayer for Bro. Gene Huber, Sr. (Sis. Barb) as he recovers from a bacterial infection. May God’s healing hand be upon each one.

We rejoice with Sis. Michaela Cook (Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana) as she became the bride of Bro. Cody Shively (Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy, Bluffton North, IN). May the Lord richly bless this young couple.

Our dear Sis. Wilma Clauss (late Bro. Paul) went home to be with the Lord peacefully. We extend our love and sympathy to her family at this tender time.

Seniors graduating this year are: Bro. Isaiah Cook (Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana), Bro. Dylan Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam), Garrett Leman (Bro. Curt and Sis. Valerie), Broderick Murray (Bro. John and Sis. Jessica), Jesse Neihouser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Barbara), Braden Nuest (Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer), Amanda Schneider (Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea).

Notes of Thanks:

Thanks were expressed from Wayne Bogart for all the love and cards he received during his hospital stay.

Also, Beverly Overmyer and family sent thanks for many prayers and expressions of kindness shown to them at the passing of Bro. Dick Overmyer.

Thank you also from Sis. Gail Gutwein for the many prayers, cards, and support upon her returning home from the mission field.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier

We have many graduates this spring and wish them God’s blessings and guidance in all their plans and decisions! Our Lord promises to go before and with them.

“And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” Deut. 31:8

Our senior dinner was held in their honor and many grandparents were able to attend. The high school seniors are Bro. Noah Schafer (Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria), Sis. Ashton Standish (Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie), Bro. Tatton Strassheim (Bro. Eric and Sis. Jodi), Bro. Caleb Klopfenstein (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara), Bro. Jack Klopfenstein (Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby), and Carl Brecken Gutwein (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura). We also have two college graduates. Sis. Leah Baumgartner (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy) and Sis. Livia Schumacher (Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelley, Bloomington, IL)

On Mother’s Day we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) minister the Word to us. It has been a blessing having our second service and lunch fellowship afterwards as well. We continue in our study of 1 John. The challenges
have been good, and a theme runs to LOVE one another.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.” I John 4:7

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

Blooming flowers, chirping birds, and ever-so-slowly rising temperatures lift our spirits as they signal spring’s arrival. We are also enlightened with fresh perspective as we gradually assume a more familiar pace of fellowship with gatherings and church activities. While I have been convicted to never again take for granted “the assembling of yourselves together”, this past year has also taught me to find the joy of the Lord in everyday moments, and that there are never-ending ways to shine his light.

Wayne Moser (Rosie) is a bright spot in our church family, and while he was recently hospitalized, we are so thankful he is now home and recovering well!

What joy a new baby brings! Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel are excited for the birth of a new granddaughter, Sarah Faith, born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Bonnie Troxel (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Our prayers are with the new parents and we look forward to meeting Sarah on their next visit.

Whether the first time or one of many, partaking of Holy Communion never fails to overwhelm our hearts with thanksgiving. We thank Elder Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) for ministering to us as we remembered our Savior and partook of his suffering.

“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

We are happy to report that April 22 was the birth date of Briggs Daniel Schumacher. Bro. Clint, Sis. Sydnee and sister Navie are grateful for his arrival into their family. We rejoice with them and pray for them as they adjust to their newest family member while continuing their houseparent duties at Gateway Woods. They are providing a real-life demonstration to the residents in their home as to how God values each life.

Having reached the age of 100 in August, 2020, our dear Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein fulfilled her allotted days here on earth on April 24. Our prayers are with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren within our Leo church family as they treasure their memories of her. The children, Bro. John (Sis. Linda), Bro. Loren (Sis. Rita) and Sis. Bonny Reimschisel (Bro. Troy), are now entrusted in carrying on her legacy of faith.

Early in May, our high school graduates, their parents and our ministers met for breakfast to mark this life milestone. Our graduates are Chelby Plattner, (Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany), and Bro. Josiah Kaeb, (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy). Our prayers follow these two young people as they discern God’s will for their life.

With joy, we announce the May 2 birth of Eleanor Ryn to Simon and Abby Schlatter, (Roanoke, VA). Our Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter are thrilled to be grandpa and grandma to this precious baby girl. We pray God’s blessing on this new family and can hardly wait for them to visit us.

Usually, we elect Sunday school teachers on the first Sunday in May. Many things have been different because of COVID-19, but this was a different election for a totally different reason. There were the same number of spots to be filled as there were nominees. With the support of the church family, it was an efficient election. These Brothers and Sisters will begin their teaching term the first Sunday of June. We are grateful for willing brethren, who lovingly use their God-given talents to teach our children. Our thanks to those who have served and to those who will now serve.

Saturday evening, May 8, we heard the testimonies of Ethan Drayer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Heather), Max Laukhuf (Bro. Mick and Sis. Lisa) and Abbi Kaeb (Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy). Each of these young people freely shared from their heart how God graciously, lovingly answered their prayer for redemption from sin and new life in Christ. During the 11:00 a.m. service the next day, Mother’s Day, they were baptized. In light of pandemic restrictions, at the end of the service, note cards and pens were available for us to write a note to
each new member instead of greeting them in a receiving line. The notes were placed in baskets marked with each one’s name. It is amazing how creative ideas have helped us deal with all the restrictions.

Relatives who shared this special time with us, but also served on the pulpit were Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI). Our thanks to each of these brothers.

During the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, May 16, the delayed, combined 2020-2021 Easter Program was presented. Perhaps it was the novelty of seeing our church’s youth assembled after such a long absence, or the fact that we could see their smiling faces instead of masks, or because they presented the greatest news known to man; for whatever reason, the presented message was especially joyful, especially powerful, and deeply blessed us. There were not many dry eyes by the end of the program, and we could truly say that the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt among us. We thank the young people, their teachers and their parents for the time and effort devoted to preparing and presenting this God-honoring, heart-stirring, spiritually-enriching, joyful, yet solemn program. God will surely bless.

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honeyegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful to welcome a new little baby this month! Zane Henry was born on May 14 to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman. His older siblings, Sadie, Millie, Harvey, and Elsie are excited to have a new little brother, and we can imagine that his big brother Rudy in heaven is thankful as well. May God bless Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie as they raise their children to love and serve him!

We have several graduates this month. Sis. Kedron Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) and Marisa Schini (Nick and Heather Koshenina and Bob Schini) are both graduating from high school, and Sis. Sophie Graf (Bro. Kenny), Ashley Weerts (Bro. Dan and Sis. Denise), and Bro. Troy Honeyegger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni) are all graduating from college. We wish each one a hearty congratulations and pray for God to bless the next stage of their life’s journey!

Several of our young men will be away from home during the summer months working at internships. Bro. Troy Honegger (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni) will be in Seattle, WA; Isaac Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette) will be in Detroit, MI; Rustin Schambach (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah) will be in Indianapolis, IN; and Sam Getz (Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara) will be in Kansas City, MO.

We wish each one of them well and pray that they will feel the love and prayers of the church while they are gone. We cannot wait to see them and hear about their experiences when they return home!

We have been blessed this past month to be refreshed with Holy Communion and to be instructed through the reading of the Memorandum. What a blessing and privilege! We are thankful to the Lord for sharing his body and blood with us unworthy yet believing disciples and to the elders for their faithful shepherding of our souls.

As we look forward to celebrating Father’s Day next month, our thoughts turn towards our earthly fathers. We are thankful that so many have been godly examples and pray that God will continue to stir men’s hearts towards him so that they can fulfill their intended role as leaders of the home and the family.

Indiana, Milford

Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We were thankful to hear of the work of God in the life of Bro. Micah Lehman (Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary) and to witness his baptism and testimony of faith.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley IL), Bro. Ed Lester (Sis. Trisha, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) for serving our church during the baptism weekend.

Bro. Travis and Sis. Anne Wilson welcomed a new addition to their family, Jaye Howard Wilson. His older brothers, Zane and Tait, along with grandparents Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer, are thankful for his safe and healthy arrival. Praise be to God.

Indiana, South Bend

Joshua Martinez

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 5:1
We’d like to thank Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) for helping with our Communion service on May 1 and his message from the pulpit the next day.

The Sunday school students showed their love and appreciation by serving a wonderful lunch on Mother’s Day.

Jesse Langhofer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky) has declared peace with God and man. We look forward to his baptism in the near future!

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss, Lyle Zeltwanger

Our verse for May:

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.” Isa. 40:28-29

After an absence of two years, our church was thrilled to be able to partake of Holy Communion. Our small flock, along with several visitors, were served by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). It was a very blessed day. Several of us traveled to Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline Lester's home and served them. Due to health issues they haven’t been able to assemble with us. Six of us were also allowed to enter The Rittenhouse village where Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr live. Words fail to describe the joy and thankfulness each couple displayed. They, along with many of our elderly, have been isolated for over a year.

Some of you remember Sis. Marguerite as she so skillfully wrote this column for several years. She had a way with words that attracted and blessed many readers. My wife and I were able to visit several churches over the years and we were always amazed at the amount of people who asked about her. They would say they felt like they knew her by reading her prose. The best was when a minister as far away from Valpo as you can get here in the U.S. told me if he was in the area, he would feel welcome just from reading her column. Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite had a very exciting spring as they celebrated her birthday in March, in April had their 75th wedding anniversary, followed by Bro. Bob reaching the century mark in his age! They are a very special couple. Sis. Marguerite always ended her column by giving an invite to all who might be traveling in this area to assemble with us.

The beaches of Indiana and Michigan have had two problems to overcome; the pandemic and the high water of Lake Michigan which has covered much of the beach. The good news is the pandemic is hopefully coming to an end. Also, because of the draught in the upper Midwest, the lake is going down, exposing the beautiful sand beaches again. Therefore, if you decide to vacation in this area or are just passing through, spend a Sunday with our small flock. You will be warmly welcomed

Indiana, West Lafayette
Abbie Gramm

Working in a school, this is the season we are winding down our year and gearing up for summer. It’s a time where our focus shifts more relationally and reflectively. What have we learned? Where did we grow? What would we like to see in the next year? In the few weeks that remain, we daily remind ourselves not to grow weary in well-doing. So, I present the same questions and invite you to join in some self-reflection. Where has God been moving and where is he directing you next? May you be encouraged in the good works he has set for you.

We were blessed to hear Hope Young (Bro. Steve and Sis. April) and Conlin Gerber (Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika) share their testimonies of the Lord’s faithfulness in their lives and receive baptism. Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) assisted with the service. Other visiting ministers for the month were Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Mark Reinhard (Sis. Angie, Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for Communion.

This month brought the college graduations for Sis. Nicola Gramm (Milford, IN), Bro. Troy Honegger (Remington, IN), Bro.
Brandon Putt (Francesville, IN), Sis. Michaela Shively (Francesville, IN), and Sis. Hope Young (West Lafayette, IN). We wish them well in their pursuits.

We hosted the discipleship conference brought to us by ACCFS as well as the Spring College Weekend. We appreciated the college students’ willingness to serve and help kick off our annual cleaning efforts.

We also began our summer midweek series with a community night, which includes a meal, fellowship, and worship. The series will be a mixture of teaching on Jesus in the minor prophets, testimony, fellowship, and prayer. In view of the recent times, we look forward to opportunities to strengthen our relationship and bonds in Christ. We want to note that for the next few months, our service times are 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with lunch at 11:45 a.m. for those who are comfortable.

Indiana, Wolcott
Brittany Gerber, Luann Gerber

We were so blessed to be able to share Communion together on April 24. It was wonderful to be reminded in such a powerful way of God’s love for us and the sacrifice Jesus made! We were thankful to be served by our Elder Bro. Greg Lehman and our ministering brothers.

We also gathered this month to hear the Memorandum from our elder brothers. We are so thankful for their leadership and their constant search of the Word as direction. We were challenged to spend personal time going over all of the referenced scriptures in the Memorandum.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Bruce Furrer as he recovers from a recent surgery.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Kendra Wettstein

We thank Bro. Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA) for ministering to us this past month. May God bless him for his efforts.

Our prayers are with Sis. Evelyn Metzger and Sis. Deb Metzger as both have spent time in the hospital. Also, Sis. Lynn Townsend’s mother, Sis. Charity Scheitlin, fell and broke her leg. Sis. Kaylyn Schock’s father, Bro. Robby Lanz, also has had medical complications. May God grant them all healing according to his perfect will.

With Father’s day upon us, let us be thankful for our earthly fathers who have brought us up to know the true way. Let us never forget our heavenly father and serve him each day of our life.

Iowa, Burlington
Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

I appreciate the song “Love at Home,” Hymns of Zion #64. It reads:

“There is beauty all around when there’s love at home.”

We were asked in a recent sermon if we truly and deeply love our brothers and sisters around us. Can the world tell that we are followers of Christ, merely by the care and concern we have for one another? I am challenged to bear one another’s burdens, rejoice with those that rejoice, and weep with those that weep.

It was special to come together as a church family for a HarvestCall night to tie blankets, along with other various activities. Spending quality time together is a beautiful way to build relationships and draw us closer.

It’s our Burlington tradition to have the singles serve lunch on Mother’s Day. As a small church family, it’s special to watch brothers, sisters and Sunday school students, both very young and older, come together and feed us all, including hand-washing the dishes following. It makes “life a bliss complete” when many willing hands pitch in and cause a light workload.

With prayerful concern, we lift up our Sis. Elizabeth Schumacher as she struggled with health issues and was hospitalized this month. We also pray for Bro. Bill Oberman as he had to make a hospital visit as well. May they each feel our love and care as they work through these difficulties.

We want to offer cheerful congratulations to our graduates Sis. Adrianna Schulz and Bro. Courage Steiner as they complete high school! May God be with them and direct their paths as they step into a new phase of life.

Lastly, we once again had visitors this month. We always enjoy seeing the relatives of our church family. Thank you for
making the effort to come! We pray that you can feel the love in our Burlington church.

As time continues to "softly, sweetly glide," may we pour our love into Jesus, and allow him to pour his immeasurable love into us.

**Iowa, Elgin**  
**Maria Rocke**

Jeff and Tammy Callahan welcomed their first grandchild, Kohen Jeffrey Clinton on March 5. Dylan and Ashley are his parents. Also welcoming a grandchild are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch. Trace Daniel Anderson was born on May 4 and is the son of Sam and Kirstin. God’s blessings on these precious little ones as they grow!

Our prayers have been with Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach and their extended family in the sudden passing of their two grown nephews, Lonnie Gage and Troy Schaffer. May God continue to comfort them in this time of loss.

**Iowa, Iowa City**  
**Diana Butikofer**

Congratulations to our high school graduate Garett Butikofer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana) and college graduates Sis. Anelyse Gerst (Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa) on her bachelor’s degree and Sis. Ruth Gerst on her master’s degree. We pray the Lord will continue to guide their paths in the future.

**Iowa, Lester**  
**Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler**

"He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater; He send-eth more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He add-eth His mercy; To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace."

*He Giveth More Grace, Gospel Hymns, #403*

We rejoice along with the angels in heaven with Doug Knobloch (Bro. Dale and late Sis. Mary) as he has made known his need of the Savior. Our prayers are with him as he struggles with battling cancer.

We are thankful to report that Bryson Bosch (Bro. Brent and Sis. Priscilla) had a good report after his eye surgery to repair damage from an earlier incident. Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Ruth Nester were both hospitalized for health issues. We hope they both are regaining strength with each passing day. May all who are going through test and trials find comfort in knowing God knows their needs.

Two little girls are adding joy to their homes. Bro. Bryce and Sis. Ashley Klostergaard welcomed Everly Jean on April 26. Her grandparents are Sis. Linda and late Bro. Brad Klostergaard and Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN). Alaina Moser became a big sister on April 29 when Natalie Mae was born to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Emma. Her grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria Moser and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger.

Visiting and sharing God’s word with us this month were Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Tucson, AZ), Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cisnna Park, IL), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL).

Mother’s Day had a bittersweet tone to it this year as Sis. Lois Metzger passed away that afternoon relieving her of earthly afflictions. We lift up her husband, Bro. Jim, her children, Clint Metzger (April), Stephen Metzger (Annette), Ross Metzger (Heather), Molly Bowman
(Scott) and Sis. Annie Wulf (Bro. Kevin) and her ten grandchildren before the throne of God to be comforted with his love. Her sister, Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill) of our congregation will miss her too along with many other Wagenbach and Metzger siblings and in-laws.

“Tell mother I’ll be there, in answer to her pray’r. This message, blessed Saviour, to her bear! Tell mother I’ll be there, heav’n’s joys with her to share; Yes, tell my darling mother I’ll be there.”

Tell Mother I’ll Be There, Gospel Hymns, #801.

I believe we all would like to assure our mothers of this message.

Graduating from high school this year are Sis. Kara Blomgren (Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia), Sadie Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Carla), Shawna Gerber (Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla), Ambria Knobloch (Bro. Dudley and Sis. Sara), Isaac Knobloch (Bro. Dustin and Sis. Michelle), Korin Knobloch (late Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea), Talin Knobloch (Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie), Tory Knobloch (Dallas and Amy), Sis. Bryna Knoblock (Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy), Korey Knoblock (Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather), Jenna Leuthold (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lee), Isabelle Metzger (Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie), Jed Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Kirk Moser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria), Jayma Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) and Chase TerWee (Chad and Sandi).

Our college graduates are Janel Knobloch (late Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea) and Bro. Thad Indermuhle (Sis. Dayra).

Our spring Memorandum was read on May 19. We were reminded that each one has a place and responsibility to use our God given gifts to serve the Lord and thus to build up the body of Christ.

Reminder: Lord willing, services will be held June 26-27, 2021 in Clyde Park, MT. See notice in “News and Notices” section of this issue for contact and RSVP information.

Iowa, Mediapolis
Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz

Graduation is such a milestone in life, and this year we are thankful for our four High School graduates, Sis. Allison Kuntz (Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura), Neil Frank (Bro. Brent and Sis. Bethany), our convert, Isaac Frank (Bro. Dan and Sis. Amanda), and Bro. Brendan Frank (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi). Our college graduate is Amy Schulz (Roger and June). As a church family, we see these precious children grow from babies in arms to beautiful young men and women. Oh, how much we love them and want heaven’s best for them.

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Eph 3:19

Heaven’s sweetness arrived and stole the hearts of Bro. Joel and Sis. Abigail Steiner. Baby Lillian Abigail will be much loved by her siblings, Weston, Lacey, Annalise and Wade. We pray God’s blessings on this happy household. Grandparents are Sis. JoAnn and the late Bro. Tom Steiner, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Our sympathy goes out to our Sis. Carol Steiner (Bro. John) as she lays to rest her sibling, Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. James, Lester, IA). May memories and thoughts of Sis. Lois in a better place give her comfort.

We thank Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) who willingly shared the truth of the gospel with us this past month.

With Father’s Day approaching, we are thankful for our earthly fathers who have been so instrumental in shaping our lives. In a society that fails to recognize the importance of Godly fathers, and places so much importance on success, prestige, and image, we pray that our fathers and grandfathers never lose sight of what is truly the most important thing to teach our youth. May it be done by actions and lifestyle, and not empty words. We have such a special love for our young fathers as they shape our future church. May we encourage and support them as they carry out the role as head of their homes.

Note of Thanks
We would like to thank all those who called, texted, sent cards, brought meals, prayed for and supported us through the tragic loss of our loved one,
Sis. Doris Kuntz. Your love and kindness have been a huge blessing to us through this difficult time.


**Iowa, West Bend**
**Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt**

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Grayden Dylan to the home of Dylan and Ashleigh Zaugg, Camden, Ellisyn and Isla. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Melissa Zaugg and Brian and Jackie Gambell. We also rejoice with Ethan and Kelsey Fehr and Ezra in the birth of Miya Ann. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Rick and Johnny Hurley.

Just as we rejoice with them that do rejoice, our hearts also weep with them that weep as Sis. Verda Bruellman has laid to rest a dear son-in-law, Don Haverman (Mona, Cedar Falls, IA). Our prayers are also with Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Wirtz in this loss. Also grieving the loss of their brother, Jacob Koehl (Hancock, MN), are Sis. Marilyn Banwart, Sis. Kathy Fehr and Becky Banwart. May God comfort each one in their loss.

We appreciated having our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) visit for a Wednesday evening. Bro. Rod has done so much for us and we are thankful! Also visiting was Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL). We thank these brothers for allowing the Lord to speak through them.

We wish God’s nearness and blessing to Sis. Irene Banwart as she moves to Kansas City to be near her son and his family.

Graduating from college are Colman Grimm (Bro. Jordon and Sis. Ann) and Ashlyn Banwart (Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami). May they look to God for direction as they make important decisions about their future.

As we remember our earthly dads on Father’s Day, let us also reflect on the unending love of our Heavenly Father and look to him for guidance always.

“Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.” 2 Thes. 2:16-17

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

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt. 18:20

As we prayerfully and patiently wait for Japan to reopen its borders to visitors, allowing fellowship once again with our broader family in Christ, we recognize that every opportunity to gather together, whether in person or online, is a privilege from the Lord.

During the past month, due to a newly declared state of emergency, our congregations have been slightly less full. We are still thankful for the ability to meet for a morning service and to extend the invitation for others to join our church services via Skype.

We are thankful that Bro. Kenzo One could reunite with his wife, Sis. Soyi, and their two daughters in Korea and pray that the Lord’s blessings would be abundant during their coming months together.

**Kansas, Bern**
**Leigha Rokey, Rita Menold**

Greetings from Kansas! Graduation season is upon us, and we have a large class of graduates this year! Our high school graduates are Bro. Brandon Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita), Spencer Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane), Brett Goodman (Mike Goodman and Luci Goodman), Braden Menold (Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita), Aubrey Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), Sis. Kenzie Meyer (Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny), Sis. Kari Edelman (Bro. David and Sis. Sheri), and Ashlyn Menold (Bro. Christopher and Sis. Amy). It has been a blessing to watch these classmates form a special bond and build so many memories together. As they each one travel their separate paths, the following verse comes to mind.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matt. 7:7-8

It was a joy to have Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman (Taylor, MO) and their family spend a Sunday with us this past month.
We appreciate Bro. Tim sharing the gospel with us!

We warmly welcome you to stop and worship with us if your vacation travel plans bring you through northeast Kansas! Blessings to each of you!

**Kansas, Ft. Scott**

*Janelle Wuthrich*

On April 23, we were blessed to be able to come together as a church family to partake in Holy Communion. It was so special to be reunited as a congregation and remember what our Lord and Savior has done for us. We wish to thank our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) as well as Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS) for conducting the service.

"We'll learn and we'll labor in cheerful accord, And do what we can in the strength of the Lord."

*The Children's Praise, Zion's Harp, #165*

We recently had an outdoor workday to complete some much-needed work on the landscaping around the church. It was amazing how much could be accomplished in a short amount of time when many hands work together.

Special thanks to Bro. Trent and Sis. Kristi Banwart for their efforts in organizing and obtaining the materials for the project.

**Kansas, Kiowa**

*Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden*

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and said unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him." John 19:1-6

"They led Christ to Calvary, and He spoke not one word. Just the cries of lost sinners was all my Saviour heard. Then they pierced him so deep in his side Until the blood came streaming down. And that's how Jesus purchased my salvation. And I find no fault in Him."

*I Find No Fault in Him, Tennessee Ernie Ford*

One Saturday evening this month, we remembered our Lord’s death on a cruel cross by partaking of Holy Communion. We extend our sincere thanks to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS), for sharing this very special remembrance with us. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to have Communion a year ago which made this year even more precious for us. On Sunday, Bro. John shared the Memorandum with us. We are thankful for those who care enough to work to keep the church lamps ready and burning for the coming of our Lord and Savior.

We were also blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) in our midst for a weekend. May God bless them for giving of their time to bring the gospel of Jesus to our small congregation and join in our fellowship.

Bro. Larry Frieden has been very sick! May we all hold him up in prayer that God can help the doctors find out what is wrong and get him on the road to health soon.

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Ex. 20:12

We are a very blessed nation that a day has been set aside to honor our precious parents and grandparents, especially if we are fortunate enough to have parents and grandparents who have brought us up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May we never forget to be grateful for the most priceless gift they could give us.

"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

We extend this scripture to our graduates every year, because we pray that they will trust God to direct their paths. Our senior, Tyler Schupbach (John and Shawna) graduates from high school in Kiowa, KS. We also have two
eighth graders: Nate Sterneker (Tom and Shawna) and Emily Klippenstein (Bro. Adolf and Sis. Elma). These young people are such a blessing to our Kiowa congregation, and we wish them all God’s love and guidance as they begin this new step in their lives.

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

“There are friendships that we cherish, In our daily walk of life, Friends with whom we meet and labor, In our earthly toil and strife, Friends among the aged and youthful, Friends that live from us apart, Friends of higher rank and station, Find a place within my heart.”
Christian Friendship,
Hymns of Zion, #91

We said goodbye to Bro. Arlen Stoller this month as he completed his course of study in Veterinary Medicine and graduated from Kansas State University. It was bittersweet because we are thankful for the sweet fellowship we enjoyed with him during the last four years and yet the parting is hard because we will all miss him very much. We pray that God will bless Bro. Arlen as he moves home to Latty, OH and begins his career.

Our prayers are also with eighth grade graduate, Colton Isch, (Bro. Justin and Sis. Liz) and with Aleah Hines (Tony and Sis. Dora), who has just graduated as a Dental Assistant. God is so gracious to give us a wide variety of educational opportunities. May our recent graduates, as well as each of us, be zealous in using our training and talents for the Lord.

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Harter, Whitney Harter

We are thankful that we were able to partake in Communion and remember our Savior’s price he paid for our sins! Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) shared the weekend with us. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN).

An all-church potluck and singing was hosted at the fellowship center. It was a blessing to lift our voices in song unto the Lord!

We are thankful for each of our earthly fathers, especially in this season. Most importantly we are thankful for our heavenly father who blesses us each day with his love and mercy!

“To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho’ stretched from sky to sky.”

The Love of God, Hymns of Zion, #289

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:9-10

It has been a blessing to see the many ways believers find to do good to one another: sharing a bucket of vegetables or a bag of fruit, buying some steak for a couple of the widows, bringing gifts for the Sunday school children on Children’s Day, flowers for all the mothers on Mother’s Day. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for!

Bro. Efrain and Sis. Ana Cabrera are thankful for the safe arrival of granddaughter Aymara Romina, born to David and Paulina. Our prayers are with them as they start planting seeds in a new little life.
México, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

We extend a fond farewell to Bro. Adam and Sis. Jenna Leman and their eight children, Fernanda, Tadeo, Perla, Leo, Mili, Violet, Willow, and Judah who moved to Bluffton, Indiana this past month. We will miss them dearly and pray that the Lord will shower his blessings on them during this time and always!

“Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.” Psa. 66:1-2

The Lord deserves our praise and glory for all that he has done as our Creator, Sustainer, Teacher, Savior, and Friend! Let’s make his praise glorious!

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

“Let brotherly love continue.” Heb. 13:1

“Though trials and tests surround us, and temptations are on every side, may our faith and trust remain unwavering and may brotherly love always abide. Though all of us are different, as was part of the Master’s plan, may we continue to love each other for we are made by the Potter’s hand. It isn’t always the easiest path, to treat everyone with compassion and grace, but let us never weary of loving all brethren in the spiritual race. Our Savior is no respecter of persons and neither should we be. Let us strive to let love continue that the world might Jesus see.” ibG.res

Many prayer requests were made known to us this past month and we are petitioning to our Heavenly Father to grant strength, comfort, healing, and wisdom according to each need.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) for coming and serving us through sharing the gospel of truth.

Congratulations to Ed and Joy Zaagman on the birth of their new granddaughter Farrah Rose (John and Lisa Houweling).

Our graduates this year are Sis. Rachel Steffen (Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) and Lena Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi). We pray that as they start a more ‘grown-up’ role in life that they will always seek to follow the will of our Lord.

We are thankful and joyful to hear that Lena Stoller (Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi) is ready for baptism and has peace with God and man. May she feel the prayers of her church family as we look forward to her baptism in a few weeks.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Sis. Sandi Knochel spent some time in the hospital recently and we pray that God would bring healing all according to his will.

We praise God for the safe arrival of Bro. Jay and Sis. Carola Schlatter’s first grandchild, Sadie Grace. Sadie’s parents are Bro. Heath and Sis. Natasha Gerber (Rittman, OH).

Norm Andrezjewski passed away on May 16 and our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Linda, their children and grandchildren. We will miss Norm’s presence at church but are thankful his suffering and illness are over.

We also want to remember Bro. Bob, Sis. Kayleen and Mikayla Grew in the recent passing of Bro. Bob’s mother, Cindy Grew. We pray that God’s comforting hand will be with all those who have lost loved ones in recent days.

We offer congratulations to three of our young people as they graduate from high school. We pray and trust that God will be with Hallie Jackson (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Peggy), Amber Jacobs (Todd and Sara) and Sam Senkowski (Brad and Gina) as they move on to universities to further their education.

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Hello to all! Our daughter was reciting her lines to me this evening for her school play that is coming up soon. Plays always remind me of books as many are based off books. Both can let my imagination soar and forget real life problems. However, do you know what book will not help me ignore whatever I don’t want to face? The Bible. Why? Because it’s like a two-edged sword, a mirror, and instead of “escape”, I see myself, my pride, and what Jesus would do. I see Jesus, not as a fiction character, but as a real
savior who loves me passionately and wants to help me with problems when I would rather escape them and ignore the Holy Spirit’s gentle prompting whether the problem is big or small. Being a believer, I know it requires a submissive heart and willingness to do it his way, and not my own. His daily advice is life-giving and oh, that we would appreciate it! I pray for a heart that appreciates more fully the Bible.

Fiction books (or plays, etc.) are not bad, but the only active living book that shows us who we are is the Bible. Praise God for his love. What if we didn’t have access to our Father and his Word through the blood of Jesus? We have so much to be thankful for.

The 2021 LifePoints Gospel Sing was a blessing to many, and we want to thank all who participated.

We are now back to eating prepackaged lunches in the dining room and are going to rotate volunteers in serving them. How great it is to spend time again in fellowship and then afternoon service!

Our hearts go to our youth anticipating graduation and we pray for protection and wisdom for them as they enter a new phase of life.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

_Brenda Messner, Renee Messner_

Greetings of love in the name of Jesus!

God’s glorious creation abounds with beauty and fragrance this time of year with the trees budding and flowers blooming. We stand in awe of him as he showers us with these colorful pleasures.

Congratulations to Bro. Joe Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) who recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Physics from the U of M. His plan is to go on to graduate school at Cornell University in Ithaca NY. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Joe as he continues his education.

We rejoice with Tom and Kendall Messner as God has blessed them with a new baby girl. Eden Mae was born on May 6. She was welcomed home by big sister Ila Grace. Thankful grandparents are Todd and Sis. Renee Messner along with Steve and Patti Meuwissen. Great grandma Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN) will want to cuddle Eden as well! Praise be to our heavenly Father for his amazing love and beautiful family plan!

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report." Heb. 11:1-2

Jesus works in our lives when we call out to him in faith. When one of our church family hurts, we all hurt. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Sandy Bentz and her family. Her husband Craig needs our prayers in his illness and recovery. They both have gone through so much and we ask to lift them up in prayer.

Also, Nikki Evans (Marcus) is having surgery on her broken collarbone which resulted from a car accident. We pray for healing and relief from pain and suffering for Nikki.

**Minnesota, Morris**

_Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf_

Greetings to all from the Morris Church. The newness of spring is lifting our hearts and eyes toward heaven in gratitude. How blessed we are to trust in him to provide all that we need. He can do all things!

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isa 43:18-19"

Our deepest sympathies to Steve and Annette Metzger on the passing of Sis. Lois Metzger (Lester, IA). May God comfort her husband Bro. James, her family and all who mourn her passing.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence of fullness of joy; at the right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psa. 16:8-11

We celebrate with Kevin and Sis. Nikki Knobloch on the birth of their daughter Taylor Grace, born on April 26. Her two big sisters, Emma and Ellie and her happy grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Brenda Messner (Winthrop, MN) are showering her with love. We welcome her to our church family.

Our honored high school graduates this spring are Anne Koehl (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim) and Justus Moser (Jon and Lori). Congratulations to both students on a job well done. As they go on their way, we ask God to bless their lives and that he be glorified through their works. We wish them all the best!
“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:” 2 Cor. 9:8

We welcome visitors and look forward to having you with us in the coming summer months.

Minnesota, Morris North

Greetings in Jesus!

Our Mother’s Day Sunday services were extra special this year because we were able to have Sis. Mabel Zeltwanger and Sis. Norene Moser (Bro. Carl) attend in person. It has been over a year since they have been able to assemble with our congregation and we were excited to have them returning to our worship services. Thank you for your prayers for them and others that have not yet been able to assemble with our congregation.

Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger held a wedding reception for their daughter Natalie and her husband John Thielen. They were married in May last year but were not able to have a normal reception.

God is so gracious to our little congregation and we praise Jesus for the opportunity to serve him together. The days will soon start getting shorter again, so we hope to soak up the Son this summer. Please join us in church if you travel to Minnesota. We love having visitors and desire to express John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

Minnesota, Winthrop

Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner

It was a privilege to have Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL) with us April 17-18 to help our Elder Bro. Paul Messner serve Holy Communion. After not having Communion for two years, it was a special time of renewing our faith.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) was with us April 24-25 for a visit. It is especially nice to have visitors after being so shut in with the pandemic.

We are very thankful for the changes in COVID-19 restrictions in Minnesota. We were able to go back to an almost normal Sunday of worship May 16, with no more masks, no more distancing, handshaking, normal lunch routine, etc. It felt good but there are still concerns.

Our friend, Stephanie Stoll and Benjamin Sanburn were joined in holy matrimony May 1. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny Stoll and Brian and the late Janelle Sanburn.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joyce Messner (Bro. Mike) after having surgery. We are also praying for Sis. Brenda Messner (Bro. Jerry) and Sis. Dixie Messner who are recuperating from surgery. We also want to keep Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) in our prayers as she is awaiting surgery and eventual relief from her pain.

Benj and Kate Steiner welcome little Kaylee Joan into their home as first-time parents. Grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Rachel Steiner and Glen and Nancy Ahlers (Brownston, MN). We are all excited to have a new baby come to church as it’s been almost two years since we have had any.

Correction for last month’s news: sweet little Teegan Grimm is the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sierra Grimm (West Bend, IA).

Missouri, Kansas City

Katy Frantz, Julie Webel

As our church goes through changes with some moving away and others moving in, we remember the words of Christ: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 13:34

We held Communion services on Saturday evening, April 24. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for joining us in commemorating our Lord’s supper.

We held a farewell singing for Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyrena Rassi and their three boys as they prepare to move to Tremont, IL. They will be missed!

In addition, Austin Fehr, (Bro. Joe and Sis. Joan), will be moving to Tucson, AZ to begin his medical residency. Our thoughts and prayers go with him!

While saying goodbye to some, we are also welcoming others! Sis. Irene Banwart has joined our congregation as she moved here from West Bend, IA., as well as Ryan Braker, who had previously
attended Lamar, MO. We are glad to have them worshipping with us.

Victoria Webel, (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie), is graduating from high school. She will be attending a local community college in the fall.

Missouri, Lamar

Leah Rokey

We once again have been abundantly blessed over the past month. We are grateful for each visitor that blesses us with their presence. The service of visiting ministers is greatly appreciated. Visiting ministers included Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

We were also blessed by Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Don and Sis. Aletta Banwart (Ft. Scott, KS) for guest-serving our Sunday lunch.

We congratulate Cooper Marti (Andy and Misty) as he graduates from high school. May God guide his path and bless his endeavors!

We also rejoice with Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart in the arrival of their newest grandchild, Ezra James! His parents are Bro. Schuyler and Sis. Melanie Brown (Sarasota, FL).

Missouri, Taylor

Tami Pflum

We are thankful for all of our visitors this past month! A special thanks to Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), and Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for ministering to us on April 18.

We had a busy weekend May 1-2 with our business meeting, Communion, and Memorandum. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) with us. Thanks to all those who fulfill jobs, big and small, to make our church function properly! Bro. Doug Banwart will continue as Sunday school teacher and superintendent. Bro. Doug Mangers will replace Bro. Matthew Schrenk as trustee.

As a church family, we rejoice with Adam and Kathryn Adrian in the birth of precious Reece William on April 25. Grandparents are Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian and Bruce and Luann Freeman (Quincy, IL). Born a month premature with some health complications, brave little Reece has been hospitalized in NICU in Springfield, IL since his birth. Adam and Kathryn continue to be in our thoughts and prayers often as they walk through these difficult days with great faith, hope and trust in The Great Physician and his deep love for their son. How we pray for a complete healing of Reece long-term and that he can be taken off the ventilator and breathe on his own so that they can bring their sweet little bundle home very soon!

We extend thanks and appreciation to Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) for leading us in a study titled, “What is your perception of God?”.

We were challenged to consider what camp we are in. Do we view God strictly as a God of judgment or primarily as a God of love? A healthy perception does not view God exclusively as one or the other, but the perfect combination of both. We are so grateful for Bro. Paul’s vulnerability and honesty as he shared his touching personal experiences with us.

We are excited to welcome Bro. Clayton and Sis. Dominique Blunier (Denver, CO) to our church and community, as Bro. Clayton recently found employment in our area. We are delighted to have another young
couple worshipping with us and extend a very warm Taylor welcome to these two!

**New York, Croghan/Naumburg**

**Anna Stoller**

“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.” Ps. 40:3

This Psalm was read recently and was a good reminder to glorify God with our words and lives!

As restrictions continue to lift and the weather is getting nicer, it seems like we are getting more opportunities to fellowship together as a church. We were thankful to gather for church cleaning this month as well as a HarvestCall work night. We packed school, health, and sewing kits. It was a blessing to be able to work and fellowship together.

We were thankful to have Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) serve us recently for the funeral of Bruce Hirschey (Gayle). May God bless his willingness.

**Ohio, Akron**

**Joelle Indermuhle**

We were thankful to have visiting minister Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN) with us for a Thursday evening recently.

Bro. David and Sis. Betsy Virkler are thankful for the safe arrival of Mason Andrew on May 9. He joins older siblings Drew, Kyle, Clayton, and Jenna. Loving grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle Virkler (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Silverton, OR).

Also thankful for the gift of peace are converts Daniel Steidl (Bro. Les and Sis. Judi) and Zoltan Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi). We look forward to witnessing their baptism in the future.

Our high school graduates this year are Janos Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi) and Alex Zarkovacki (Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie). We pray that they would seek God’s will as they navigate the many decisions of life.

There are 61 patterns for crocheted headcoverings available. If you would like the patterns/instructions, email Sis. Nan Steidl for them. Her email address is rasteidl568@gmail.com.

**Ohio, Columbus**

**Julie Grimm**

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come…” Song of Sol. 2:12

Central Ohio is lush green and full of spring color. There are various opportunities the Lord affords us to refresh our thirsty souls. It is invigorating spiritually to observe the beauty that surrounds us in God’s creation. We are also rejuvenated as we spend time worshipping together.

We thank the following visiting ministers for sharing the Word with us: Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Curt Walter (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Eric Strassheim (Indianapolis, IN), Elder Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), and Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH). We were uplifted as we gathered to remember the Lord’s suffering and death by partaking of Holy Communion, which was served to us by our Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH).

Sis. Nancy Banks has spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray the Lord will continue to restore health.

**Ohio, Junction**

**Karen Schlatter**

We were blessed to have Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL) visit recently and share words of hope and encouragement from God’s Word with us.

Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter welcomed a new grandson on May 1. Their daughter, Sis. Anita and her husband Bro. Jason Koch (Bradford, IL) welcomed Charles William into their home. Charles also has older siblings Jamie and Jordan.

We were saddened to hear Bro. Ben Manz had a fall recently and broke some vertebrae in his neck. He was able to have surgery and is now back home recuperating. May the Lord be with him as he patiently waits for the healing to occur.

We will miss Johnathan Reinhard as he has moved to Iowa City, IA. May he feel our love and prayers and return home to visit often.
We have many graduates this year and are thankful they were able to complete their last year of high school without too many complications. Our graduates are Adrian Manz (Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica), Caleb Manz (Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise), Elyse Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Luke McCullough (Bro. James and Sis. Julie), Faith Rose (Johnathon and Connie), Sis. Emily Reinhard (Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth), Joanna Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy), Lynelle Schneider (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi), Katie and Katrina Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy). A graduation breakfast was held on Sunday, May 16 to recognize our graduates and present each one with a Bible. May each graduate seek the Lord for guidance as they pursue their career goals.

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein,
Carmen Stoller

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16

On Sunday, May 16, we were so blessed to witness three souls believing and being baptized. Sis. Miriam Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene), Sis. Lydia Whitman (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Mandy), and Bro. Levi Manz (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jennifer) are our new sisters and brother in Christ. We pray that they will continue to feel God’s richest blessings and serve him faithfully each day. We appreciate the service of Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) who assisted our Elder Bro. Gary with this work. Thank you to the other ministers who shared the Word with us that Sunday as well: Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Jim Manz (Sis. Elizabeth, Junction, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH).

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Num. 6:24-26

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Misti Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb), Owen Manz (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Samuel Rager (Bro. Eric and Sis. Sherri), Bryce Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy), Sis. Julie Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane), Tiffany Sinn (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa), Maria Stoller (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kendra), Riley Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam), Ryan Wenninger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni), and Sis. Lydia Whitman (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Mandy). We wish them the blessing of Numbers 6:24-26, and pray that they will choose to seek and serve God in all that they do.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

It is a beautiful occasion to worship God each Sunday and an added blessing to do so together as a part of the body of Christ. We thank the ministers who serve, being vessels of the Spirit. Visiting our congregation this month were Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT).

Mother’s Day is only a day on the calendar that is now past, but we carry forward a renewed appreciation for our mothers and spiritual mothers. On Mother’s Day, we enjoyed a special lunch, and many of us carried home a begonia plant. Not only is this a special tradition, but it can also be an analogy. The role of a mother is much like the toiling of a gardener: to water, to prune, and to weed! May God give the increase.

We rejoice with Bro. Wesley Beer and Sis. Baylee Figel (Smithville, OH) in the announcement of their engagement. It is uplifting to hear how God is working in the lives of our loved ones. Let us keep them in our prayers as they prepare for joining together as one.

We are saddened by the passing of Bill Green (Herta, Wilmington, OH). Bill is the brother-in-law of Bro. Pete Webel (Sis. Linda). Bill served as general contractor for the building of our Fellowship Hall. We pray for God’s comforting presence to all.

Ohio, Rittman
Mardel Dotterer, Julie Steiner

A young couple has announced their engagement.
this past month, Bro. Brandon Luginbuhl and Sis. Carrie Dotterer. Their parents are Ted and Stephanie Luginbuhl, and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Dotterer. On May 15 was the wedding day for Curt Ingold (Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie) and Sarah Kamionkoski. We wish these couples God’s rich blessings.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori Rufener welcomed a new grandson, Arlo Jan Rufener on April 24, to parents Sam and Suzie Rufener, and big brother Everett. On May 2, Olivia Rose Dotterer was born to Michael and Gina Dotterer. Welcoming this precious daughter are brothers Noah, Caden, and Owen, and grandparents Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer. On May 5, Sadie Grace Gerber arrived as the firstborn daughter of Bro. Heath and Sis. Natasha Gerber, a new granddaughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann Gerber. May these parents find that special measure of grace and wisdom needed to raise God’s children.

Our prayers are with many who have been sick this past month. Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Amy Cannon (Joe), Sis. Jessica Riggenbach (Bro. Corbin), Bro. Bobby Cochran (Sis. Paulette), Sis. Anna Jentes (Brian), and Grayson Steiner (Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita) have spent time in the hospital. These are difficult times. Because God knows the road ahead, we can commit our loved ones into his care.

This past month, we joyfully welcomed two new brothers, and one new sister into the fold. Bro. Elmer Zollinger (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb), Bro. Chase Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill), and Sis. Faith Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy) were baptized on April 25. What joy to see these new lambs of God, embarking on their walk of faith.

We want to thank the many visiting ministers who served in Rittman this past month, Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Joel Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Nate Ramsey (Sis. April, Mansfield, OH).

Ohio, Sardis

Renee Blough, Doris Miller

Special activities were numerous this reporting period. When we are working, praying, fellowshipping, and worshiping with those in the brotherhood of Christ we are strengthened in so many ways.

Ladies HarvestCall had their final session until fall, then spent two separate days cleaning at the fellowship center and church. A workday was held for inside and outside maintenance. Sunday school students, teachers and parents spent a Saturday morning cleaning the roadways at our annual spring litter pickup. We had an all-church carry-in supper.

Holy Communion was shared with the brethren. We so need this time of examination and remembering what the Lord has done for us. Thanks to visiting Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH).

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Heb. 10:23-25

Ohio, Smithville

Connie Maletich, Marcy Stoller

Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer are excited to report another grandchild, Theodore William, born to Jeremy and Anita Pawlak. Bro. Cole and Sis. Mariah Rudy, along with Hope welcomed Malachi Emerson into their home and hearts. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly Beery and Patty Sense.

We extend loving sympathy to Sis. Gail Riggenbach (Bro. Don) at the passing of her sister-in-law, Martha Davis.

We have six graduating seniors this year. We have watched them grow up and pray for them as they move on to the next phase of their life. They are Bro. Adrian Dotterer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Amy), Jacob Rupp (Doug and Sis. Debbie), Jordan Steiner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn), Bro. Clark Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene), Hayden Stoller (Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara), and Reuben Stoller (Bro. Tom and Sis. Gretchen).
“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

Ohio, Toledo

Anne Baumann, Brooke Harmon

Although the Bible consistently describes “eternal life” as a gift, we have been learning that to describe “eternal life” simply as a transaction or a “thing” falls short of the complete picture offered in Scripture. In fact, Jesus himself stated that eternal life is to know the Father and the Son in personal relationship (John 17:3). The Apostle John also described Jesus himself as “that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us” (1 John 1:2) in the beginning of his first letter and as “the true God, and eternal life” (1 John 5:20) at the end of his letter. Combining these thoughts together, we see that Christians receive the gift of eternal life because they are connected and united by grace through faith to eternal life himself, Jesus Christ.

We believe that many of these precious truths can be seen as we study God’s inspired words as revealed by the Holy Spirit through his prophets and apostles. In order to truly understand the passage we are reading, we need to ask as many questions as we can. Who was being addressed by the author (Pharisees, Jews in Babylon, or Holy-Spirit filled Christians)? What is the overall context of the passage? What is the main point of the passage? How does this passage compare to other similar passages or the Bible as a whole? By studying the Scriptures carefully, we can hope to avoid the common error of reading our own thoughts into the Bible, thus potentially changing the original meaning. So often, I have found that a Scripture says something different than I originally thought! And his truth is always so much greater than my own personal “truth.” God is so good and he loves to teach. Let us continue to learn more about him as well as deepen our relationship with him, as he alone is the giver and source of eternal life.

We are looking forward to the Toledo Church Open House in June in order to thank everyone who worked so hard to help complete our church building project. Special thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort! Our church family had the privilege of having Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) help with our recent church building dedication service.

We give a big farewell to our Bro. Clark Schlatter who will be attending the Junction, OH congregation due to a recent move. We will really miss him and hope that he visits soon!

As a church family, we worked side by side this month as we all got together and helped with outdoor clean up and landscaping. We had a great turn-out and are grateful for the out-of-town visitors we got as well. To be sure, we are looking forward to summer and the warm weather!

Ontario, Kitchener

Roselynn Metzger

“He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.” Eccl. 3:11

A warm hello from Kitchener! As we enter the season of spring, this verse brings a very clear message of God’s amazing ability to transform. We see the blossoms transform from a small bud to a beautiful flower. We see the mighty trees transform from a woody plant to a flourishing canopy. The young animals grow into strong, healthy creatures. All the small details in this season point to God’s amazing power and creation.

The same God who transforms nature from dormancy to life is the God who transforms our lives from sin and death to hope and life. This is the most beautiful transformation of all, and was made possible by Jesus Christ, the sacrificial lamb. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us unconditionally, for going to the cross and for rising again and giving us the gift of light!

We once again experienced the blessing of visitors this month! Our visiting ministers were Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa Bradford, IL).

Our church family was saddened by the passing of a dear friend to our church family,
Brenda Eckstein, on April 19. What a comfort to know she is with her heavenly father now.

On Saturday May 15, a few people were able to get some much needed cleaning and landscaping done at church as part of our annual spring cleaning. A special thanks to those who have been helping out behind the scenes!

Since the Canadian/American borders are still closed, we welcome you to ‘visit’ us on our Zoom calls! We meet Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Please reach out to Sis. Alma Gingrich (elmeralma4@gmail.com) for the link details. Blessings on your coming month!

“The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” Jer. 31:3

Oregon, Silverton

Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

At the beginning of May we had the opportunity to celebrate our high school graduates. Ben Von Flue (Bro. Dan), Kiana Walter (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Trisha), Sis. Kathryn Walter (Bro. Chad and Sis. Megan), Jerome Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Micah Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy) and Sis. Julia Kuenzi (Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori) all were encouraged to seek the Lord’s direction in their lives as they begin life after high school. As a congregation, we are prayerful they grow into men and women for the Lord as they pursue higher education.

We welcomed two babies this month! Bro. Jordan and Sis. Kendra Sinn along with Aria, welcomed Haley Heidi on May 7. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Katherine Schmidgall (Morris, MN), and Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi Sinn.

Bro. George and Sis. Elizabeth Kaufman along with Brynlee and Bowen welcomed Oaklynn Anne on May 8. Grandparents are Melvin and Sally Kaufman from the Silverton area and Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller from IL.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi’s youngest child, Morgan, has been having increased seizure activity. Please continue to pray that the doctors have wisdom and for peace and trust in the Lord during this stressful time.

Elisha Snook (Bro. Jason and Sis. Colette) began her walk with the Lord! Please pray for grace and growth as Elisha begins this most wonderful journey!

Maria Sinn (Bro. Kenton and Sis. Alicen) recently broke her leg. Please pray for a quick recovery.

Sis. Jennifer Kuenzi’s (Bro. Harvey) brother-in-law, Roger Bach from Fairbury, IL, passed away this month. Please pray for the family as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Our congregation was blessed to listen to the testimonies of Bro. Drew Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy), Bro. Joe Prince, and Bro. Kyle Schurter this month. It is always a tremendous blessing to listen to how God has worked in fellow believers’ lives and then witness their baptisms as they display their commitment to him.

Thank you to Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand for their support and work throughout the weekend!

Oregon, Portland

Louisa Gallup

As summer is almost here, we are enjoying the blossoms and sunshine and above all: the fact that things are better now than last year at this time in regards to the pandemic. We are thankful that we are slowly but surely returning to some normalcy and have the opportunity to get some protection through the available vaccines. It is good to have some members of our congregation return safely home from travels, and others able to resume worshipping at church again. May the Lord continue to bless and protect us as we carry on.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Laura Isch

"Even as the springtime flowers Grow beneath the sun’s warm rays, So the Lord by His own powers Makes us garlands for His praise; He invites most lovingly; Little children, come to Me!”

Morning Hymn, Zion’s Harp, #166

We have had a lovely spring here in Pennsylvania! It is a blessing to be reminded of God’s goodness and power by the signs of his creation. God’s creation glorifies him! May God’s children, as his creation, be willing to be “garlands for His praise”!
We appreciated having ministering Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT) with us this month. It is a blessing to gather around the Word together.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We are thankful for the willingness of ministering brothers to travel and worship with us. Recently, the following ministering brothers have shared God’s Word with us: Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), and Bro. Mark Klaus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL).

We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of visitors from Athens, AL; Gridley, IL; Francesville, Leo, and West Lafayette, IN; Junction, OH; and Philadelphia, PA;

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 verify 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 of Texas!

What thoughts are you thinking? “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psa. 19:14

We were blessed to hear the Word by the Holy Spirit’s inspiration by Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Brent Walder (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) for the reading of the Memorandum. Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) also served our church and blessed us as he shared God’s word.

We rejoice with Bro. Jesse Fisher and Sis. Kirby Eckerty (Champaign, IL) as they were united in marriage. We wish them God’s richest blessings.

The other day as my husband was driving quietly, seemingly in his own thoughts, I asked him as I often do, “What are you thinking?” His response was one that I have since been pondering. He said, “I am thinking about what thoughts I should be thinking about.” I realized that I had been talking about something that was not important and how much better it would be to consider my thoughts and words before speaking.

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things.” Philp. 4:8

On a small plaque in our home a short prayer reads, “Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.” “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;” (James 1:19) What thoughts are you thinking?

Vermont, Clarendon
Sarah Wagenbach

We were thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). It did not work for them to come visit in person, but we felt their love and appreciated the fellowship we had through video call. We wish them God’s blessings for serving us. Our Sis. Luella Hoffman was hospitalized this month. We are so thankful she is home and pray for her continued recuperation.

On May 9, some of us were able to attend Rockville, CT services and some through Zoom for the elder ordination service of Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi). We thank Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi for the time they served us as our ordained deacon and we wish them God’s nearness and blessings as Bro. Brent will now serve as elder in Rockville, CT. In this transition, Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan will continue serving our congregation as elder. We welcome them and look forward to having them with us frequently!
The Problem
As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been blessed to have had the gospel shared with us! However, it is estimated that out of the 7.75 billion people living on the earth, over 3 billion people do not have access to the gospel (Joshua Project). Over 40% of the people on the earth have not heard about Jesus. And these numbers do not include our unbelieving neighbors, or places like much of Mexico, where there is less access to the gospel than most Americans have.

God states throughout the scriptures that his desire has always been that his name would be known among all nations (Psalm 96:3). He called Abraham for the purpose that he could have a people set aside to make his name known and this theme continues through the Old Testament. Then, at the end of the Gospels before Jesus’ ascension, he leaves the church with the responsibility to make God known to all nations through the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

The church is now responsible to bring the gospel to all nations. It seems like the answer should simply be “go” but it must be realized that there are multiple complexities to this. Those without the gospel often do not speak English, are from cultures vastly different from ours, may not have context for the gospel of Jesus Christ, or live in material poverty far beyond our comprehension. Furthermore, they may be uninterested in someone coming in and telling them what they need or learning a new way of life.

Our Sacrifice
As the church, we must ask how we can take the gospel to the rest of the world. It will involve sacrifice. Let’s look at the example of Jesus and Paul.

2 Corinthians 8:9 states that though Jesus was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor that we through his poverty might become rich. Jesus said in John 15:13 that greater love has no man than this, than a man lay down his life for his friends. The heart of the gospel is Jesus’ willingness to become a human and give his life for us as humans.

Paul also left us an example. In 1 Corinthians 8-9 he is sharing his willingness to deny himself his rights in order that others might know Christ. He says he is willing to become a vegetarian and that he suppressed his right to be paid for his service to the church so that the gospel would not be hindered (verse 12). He sums up his heart in verse 19 where he says though I have freedoms I will choose to bring myself in bondage to others for the sake that I might gain more for Christ! He goes as far as to state that he is willing to become all things to all men so that he might by all means save some (verse 22).

Jesus and Paul left us examples of sacrifice. Will we be willing to follow?
Our Understanding

There is more than just a willingness to sacrifice. We must understand others to bring the gospel to them in a way that it is clearly seen. This involves knowing the culture in such a way that our presentation does not bring harm.

Paul demonstrated this multiple times in the book of Acts. One example is in Acts 17 where Paul waited for Silas and Timothy in Athens. He observed what was going on in this city and learned the culture to the extent that when given the opportunity to meet with their philosophers he was able to speak to the culture in his interaction. The way he brought the gospel to the Athenians was unique from how he brought it to Corinth, Thessalonica, or other churches. Another example is in Acts 16:4 where he circumcised Timothy so that the gospel could be more clearly heard by the Jews. His understanding of those he ministered to motived his actions.

No Compromise

The question can be asked, what about truth? If we are seeking to be sensitive to the culture, are we compromising God’s law? The scriptures are clear that we must not compromise God’s word to reach the culture. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 9:21b that in becoming a Jew, or Gentile, or weak, or etc. that he was always under the law of God. In Galatians 2, Paul and Titus were unwilling for Titus to submit to circumcision so that the gospel could continue with them. We are NEVER called to compromise the truth of the gospel to understand or speak to the culture.

The Challenge

This is where it gets challenging! It takes a significant amount of sacrifice and self-awareness to be able to understand culture and not compromise truth for the sake of bringing the gospel clearly to all men. We need to recognize that this means sometimes we will “circumcise” for clarity of the gospel (Timothy in Acts 16:4) and sometimes we will refuse to “circumcise” for clarity of the gospel (Titus in Galatians 2:3-5).

We also must be willing to confess that even if we speak the right language about “clarity of the gospel” our lives may unknowingly demonstrate something different. A good example of this is Peter in Galatians 2. He had clearly confessed with the other Apostles that both Jews and Greeks were purified by faith and not through circumcision (Acts 15:9). However, when he came to Antioch, he lived in a way that demonstrated to others that circumcision was “better”. Not only did he do this, but Barnabas followed him. It became an issue where Paul had to confront Peter because “they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:14). We see from the example of Paul and Barnabas that living consistent with gospel clarity has been a tension since the beginning of the church, and this will be a struggle for us as well.

Practical Clarity

As an organization tasked with sharing the gospel, HarvestCall must have clarity about the gospel as we seek to share it in the US and abroad. There are multiple tensions with this topic that are not easily solved and can look different depending on the circumstance. Below are three summary points that should be considered by us a church denomination and specifically as a HarvestCall organization:

- We are to seek to know others well enough to understand their cultural norms and mindsets
- We are to suppress our cultural ideals and preferences for the sake of the gospel
- We are to elevate truth when a cultural mindset is inconsistent with the gospel

These are difficult tensions to manage. However, they are essential to the preservation of a genuine gospel. We can look at this in many ways, but let’s start with language. If we are seeking to have gospel clarity in an area where another language is spoken, we would have to master this language to do this successfully. We can also look at cultural norms. We must do the hard work of understanding the culture, know the

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CLARITY of the GOSPEL
— Continued from pg. 51

background, and discern truth from error. If we do not balance this tension, we can quickly distort the gospel by adding our cultural preferences or by rejecting truth.

The next two areas can even be harder challenges. Material poverty is a real concern in many parts of the world and when there are significant urgent needs (lack of food, lack of clean water, etc.) we as God’s people should be seeking to alleviate this pain and suffering. However, our goal cannot be to make people Middle Class Americans. In doing this, we may end up promoting a “prosperity gospel” and not realize we are doing this. Lastly, we could look at church practices. If we demand a cultural conversion because of an extrabiblical practice we hold dear but is not relevant in another culture, we distort the gospel.

Finally, let’s look forward. If we as a church – and particularly as an outreach organization (HarvestCall) — are faithful in presenting the clear gospel to all people in a variety of countries, what could this look like in the future? Let’s look at a few areas:

• In all areas where there is not a conflict with the Kingdom of God, indigenous cultures are appreciated, learned, and embraced for the sake of the gospel.
• Each new church is inviting for indigenous believers and seekers. Biblical principles shape church practices which are applied in the context of the local culture.
• Missionaries and visitors embrace local customs (that are biblically sound and that do not violate biblical principles) and fully participate in local congregations.
• Local seekers and believers are seeing Christ, the gospel, and the Word clearly in their native language and are worshipping in a form sensitive to their culture.
• Moderation, godly living, strong relationships, high comfort in expressing unique spiritual gifts, and the embracing of diversity is understood and lived out by the local congregation.

How much do we desire the clarity of the gospel and to what extent will we go to bring this message to all men? May God continue to help us as we seek to learn together on how to be “all things to all men, that we might by all means save some” while being under the law of Christ!

Matt Knapp serves as Executive Director for HarvestCall.

Faith of our Fathers
by Frederick William Faber

1. Faith of our fathers, living still,
   In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
   Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
   Whene'er we hear that glorious word.

2. Faith of our fathers, we will strive
   To win all nations unto thee,
   And thru the truth that comes from God,
   Mankind shall then be truly free.

3. Faith of our fathers, we will love
   Both friend and foe in all our strife,
   And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
   By kindly words and virtuous life.

[Chorus]
   Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
   We will be true to thee till death!
OUR VISION:
A body of believers bound together by our love for Jesus Christ and his Word, reflecting God's love, grace, and truth.

OUR PURPOSE:
To glorify God by loving as Jesus loves.

OUR 4-PILLAR MISSION:

Present the gospel
To present to the lost the gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and repentance and conversion.

Preserve Sound Doctrine
To preserve sound doctrine by contending for the faith.

Nurture the Believer
To teach and nurture the believers toward a sanctified life and to faithfulness by God's grace and through his Word.

Serve One Another
To offer loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all people in the name of Christ.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Jesus Christ's love for us is the foundation & motivation for everything we do.
We seek to be like Jesus in thought, action, & character, & to live the entire counsel of his Word.
We follow the Great Commission, sharing the love & truth of Jesus Christ in our homes, churches, communities, & throughout the world as God calls us to serve.
We disciple & care for one another as a committed church body.
We apply spiritual discernment to our daily decisions based on the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit's direction, & Godly counsel from fellow believers.
We see God's value in each individual & joyfully reflect Jesus' peaceful spirit.
We believe the Bible is true, timeless, & inspired of God.
We, as a church, contend for the teachings of Jesus Christ & his Word.
We freely give as we have freely received, recognizing our lives & resources belong to God.

Handout can be found at www.apostolicchristian.org/guiding-principles
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.

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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 wesmoser58@gmail.com
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647 bobmet@alliancecom.net or 612-963-0089 (mobil)

From Silverton
Greg Wackerle 503-873-7483 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.
Learning to Love
As Jesus Loves

The annual event for all Apostolic Christians who have interest in missions.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

For Complete Information and Registration go to ProclaimAndServe.org

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
FRIDAY, JULY 9
6:30 - 9:30 PM

MAIN CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, JULY 10
8 - 5 PM

Hosted by
Peoria Apostolic Christian Church
3420 N. Sheridan Road
Peoria, IL 61604

Seating is limited for the breakouts and discussion groups. Register online at proclaimandserve.org to ensure you get your choices of topics, select a lunch entree, and reserve overnight accommodations (if needed.)
Missionary Service Opportunities

in Haiti, Jamaica and 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

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
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**2021 Team Schedule**

**Mexico**

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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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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<td>Magdalena: Congerville, IL</td>
<td>October, 2021</td>
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**Jamaica**

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<td>CCCD - JDV</td>
<td>June 4-12, 2021 40</td>
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Mark Lindberg 815-641-9065 lindma@hotmail.com

*If you are interested in sponsoring a team to Jamaica, contact Loren Dettwyler

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Isaiah 54:13

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City ____________St ___ Zip _____

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Cell Ph _______________________

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☐ Haiti School   ☐ Guatemala
☐ Mexico       ☐ Zambia
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If possible, I prefer:

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☐ No Preference

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We follow the Great Commission

— Continued from pg. 3

heart is to know our Lord, to really know him, so that our very lives spill out his love and mercy and power to the circles in which we find ourselves. We cannot be a part of the big picture commissioning - the going and making of disciples, the baptizing, and preaching forgiveness of sins - without the personal knowledge and love of our Savior.

The Great Commission begins in our hearts and in our homes. Some have balked at the stay-at-home preference prevalent with some believers. ‘There are mission fields right here,’ they say. ‘But someone needs to go!’ others think. The church benefits from both perspectives. Just as we would not claim that God’s call for Adam and Eve to populate the earth means that each couple should have as many children as possible, we cannot view God’s call to his disciples to bring the gospel to all nations as a command for each believer to travel to another nation to live for Jesus and spread the Kingdom there. But we are all called to love wherever we are: love God and love our neighbor - whether that neighbor lives with us, lives next door, passes us at the grocery store, or lives in a far-off land.

Jesus, in his final conversation with Peter in the book of John, emphasizes love as the foundation for any feeding, any shepherding, any discipling. If we love God, then we will connect with others, near and far. We will go into our kitchens, our churches, our neighborhoods, our cities, and even other nations, to share this love. If we love God, then we will teach our children about Jesus, disciple younger believers in his ways, and patiently nurture first-generation believers in new churches. We will listen wisely to Paul as he tells us in the first letter to the Corinthians that we can speak as eloquently as an angel and even sacrifice our bodies to the fire, but if we are without love, all such works are worthless. They are nothing. The key attribute of love must be our grounding focus, our guiding light, and our deepest motive.

If this is the case, and we truly are “rooted and grounded in love,” the big picture of the Great Commission will be on our hearts and in the forefront of our minds as we grow our families, choose a place to live, decide on a career or place of work, and live each of our days. What if we intentionally asked ourselves questions like: How might I spread the Kingdom of God today by loving my neighbor, my coworker, my spouse? What interactions might the Lord bring into my life today in which I will, by his Spirit, bring peace into chaos, light into darkness, and hope into brokenness? Where might the Lord be leading me to live, work, shop, and worship so that people who haven’t heard might hear the truth, might be discipled and might be brought into the Kingdom of God? How might I use my time, my energies, and my money to share this message or enable others to do so?

We do not speak on our own authority, but we speak and live and move under the authority given to Jesus, our King. We go forward under the promise that he will be with us always, even to the end of the age. We go forward in love, knowing that any other motive is futile. Lord, fill our hearts with your love and the awareness of your authority and your presence.

To the end of the age.

Endnotes
1 Matthew 28:18-20
2 Matthew 28:18
3 Mark 16:15
4 Luke 24:46-47
5 John 21:15,16, 17
6 1 Corinthians 13:1-3
7 Ephesians 3:17
that that was bridged was through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. He made the way possible to bridge that divide.

No man can cross it in a step, and no man is justified by the law. No matter how we try, we can’t live perfectly. So, what do we do with that? How do you reconcile that? Only God could do that: the one who created us, the one who loved us from the very beginning, and the one who knew that there needed to be a way put in place to save us from ourselves. A perfect God sent his perfect son to live a perfect life and then to die an extremely ugly and gruesome and cruel death, yet sinless, that we could be redeemed. It wasn’t an act of man; it was act of God.

Do you believe that for your life? Or are you in unbelief saying, “I can do it on my own. I don’t need Jesus Christ. I can do it by my works. I can live by being a perfect person”? No, we can’t. So, it takes us back to the simplicity of the gospel where Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father” – no man can cross that great divide – “except he come through me, and the way that I’ve made possible is the only way to enter.”

It says, “Narrow is way.” It’s not because it’s difficult but because there’s only one way. It says the world’s going to tell you that there’re a lot of ways, and that’s not the truth. It says it’s so simple that a child can understand. Does that sound like a narrow way that nobody could understand? No, it’s simple.

“The blessings of Abraham might come upon us.” What was the blessing given to Abraham? Yes, it was an actual event that happened to Abraham, but it’s a picture of hope for us. It is this hope of something that God has in store for us. Remember, he told Abraham, “I’m going get you out from this land, and I’m going to take you to a land flowing with milk and honey.” That’s a picture for us.

He says, “If you live and believe in me through my son, Jesus Christ, and your salvation faith is based on me alone, I’m taking you. Even though you may have tough times here and you may not understand, I promise you something in the future.” We haven’t realized it yet. We have this surety of the spirit, but he has promised us an eternal home with him where we will be known.

I can’t wait. I just get kind of excited. Those things ignite just like a spiritual vitamin shot. I love interacting with people. I love talking with people. I love hearing people’s stories, so I’m really looking forward to heaven. There is going to be a lot of people there, a lot of people I want to talk to, and a lot of people I haven’t met yet that I’m looking forward to meeting. That’s one of the greatest promises for me. I get to spend a lot of time with a lot of people asking “What’s your story?” I want to ask Daniel, “What were you thinking when you were standing at the mouth of the lion’s den before you got tossed in there? Were you scared? What was going through your heart?” To Elijah, “How was it on top of Mt. Carmel; that had to be…?” My questions could go on and on.

The promise he has prepared for us is that we – this is hard for me to reconcile because I can’t, I’m human – as imperfect people get to be with a perfect God forever. I think one of the greatest things is that we will have a better understanding of his holiness and his perfectness and his love. We get to bask in that. We get to be there with him and enjoy that for eternity and not because “I’m a good person.” Inherently, I’m not a good person because my inherited nature is from Adam and Eve, and guess what, they didn’t get it right. But we can rejoice that the
promises to all of us sitting here in this room today is a message of salvation, and none are excluded from that. That is the great message of salvation.

Jesus said, “I’ve gone to prepare a place for you. It has many rooms. If it weren’t so, I would have told you, but I’m telling you the truth. I’m going away.” In my oversimplified mind, I like to think of it this way. In how many days did God create the world? Six days, and he rested on the seventh. How long has Jesus been gone? Over 2000 years. I think there’s some really neat stuff here on earth to appreciate, and if he created that in six days, I can’t imagine what heaven will be like after 2000 years. It’s going to be great. I can’t even imagine.

Even though we don’t deserve it, he offers it to us because he loves us. Do we want to go back into something that brings us back into account in this whole equation? No. That would just discredit God’s good work. “And if ye be Christ’s” (v.29). It is a choice. It is a decision. It is an active decision. “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Heirs – that’s not a word we use a lot. Sometimes, we talk about it when we talk about family stuff like wills, but that’s not something I use on a daily basis. Being an heir is being part of the family, isn’t it? Kind of like I’m a Cargill. There are not a whole lot of Cargills in the Apostolic Christian church, but I married a Schambach. There are more Schambachs, and I became an heir to that family. If you’re Christ’s, then you are heirs to God. Wow.

Sons and daughters of the King. Do we walk around like we are sons and daughters of the King? That we are the holders of the promise? That we have everything given to us because we are sons and daughters? Are we sharing with the world that we have the greatest treasure, the greatest opportunity, the greatest inheritance we could pass on? God’s gift of salvation enriches us. Are we actively talking about Jesus? Are we actively living like Jesus? Are we actively showing the world that we are a different people because of Jesus? Are my thoughts and my desires different because of Jesus? I’m going to ask myself, “How am I doing?”

“Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one” (v.20). We have this advocate, this mediator, Christ Jesus. Because I ask myself those questions, I have to think about this: How would my kids answer that? How would my wife answer that question about me? Yes, you see each person on Sunday, but what about the person on Monday who has a short temper? Or the person on Tuesday that’s frustrated with something? Or the person on Wednesday that’s full of worry? Or the person on Thursday… you could go down the list. We have an advocate because we realize we’re not there yet. We have one still pleading, an advocate, Jesus Christ, that is there before the father, saying, “They may be imperfect, but they are mine. They’re clothed in my righteousness, and they have forgiveness.” Satan will beat us up any way he can to discourage us. You have a father that loves you. You have an active mediator who’s pleading your cause. You have the Holy Spirit living within you. You have the word of God before you. We’ve got truth. Share it with the world.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

We are continuing the series on our church’s heritage of faith. But first, this to offer the author’s apology for a typo error with reference to the church coming to America. It is a well-documented fact, and often cited by the author in “Marching To Zion” and in many other historical articles, as 1847. In the May issue of the Silver Lining it was mistakenly shown as 1947. Such indicates that even the most careful proofreader is sometimes prone to an oversight. Again, I am sorry for this mistaken listing. Indeed, our first church in America was established in 1847.


Persecution in Europe

When the early churches were being established, the brethren were often harassed unmercifully. At Zurich in 1837, an effort (by the state) was made to end the meetings by removing from the constitution the articles on freedom of faith. Persecution brought fines, severe abuse of teaching brothers, removal from church offices, bans from the canton, beatings, near drownings, and meeting disruptions. Church meetings were prohibited and meeting places were locked. Meetings were sometimes held at night or in isolated places. Despite persecution, the brethren took comfort in knowing that persecutions endured for Christ’s sake helped make them stronger.

Roots of Faith

Man’s calling is from God and the Apostolic Christian Church (Evangelical Baptist Church in Europe) began when God raised up a man and a people in the midst of apostasy and directed them by his Spirit. More specifically, in a sense, the Apostolic Christian Church is a product of the Radical Reformation of the sixteenth century, and was particularly influenced by the Anabaptist movement that sprang up in Switzerland in 1525, approximately three hundred years before Samuel Froehlich began his work. As a young divinity student at Basel, Froehlich became exposed to and influenced by the Swiss Brethren, and still later (in some aspects) by Mennonite communities. Thus, he had a distinct Anabaptist influence.

The Anabaptists

Anabaptists, beginning in 1525, wanted to restore the church to the vigor and faithfulness of its earliest centuries. In addition to having faith in God, living according to his word was critical. Brotherhood and church order were important to most Anabaptist groups. The Anabaptist concept of the church is derived from its belief of Christianity as discipleship, complete obedience to Christ and living a life patterned after Christ’s example. The church must be holy, orderly, pure, and composed exclusively of practicing disciples. The church fulfills its scriptural authority over the individual members, controls admission of new members and disciplines erring members. Anabaptists sought to achieve a church “not having spot or blemish or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Samuel Froehlich was shaped in part by the early Anabaptists. Although the Bible was his major influence (and direction), his association with Swiss Brethren caused him to adopt some of their practices and church procedures. The early church in America continued to reflect this influence as manifested in church order and liturgy (i.e., worship form), and in the simplicity of the member’s appearance and manner of life. Such pursuits, with Biblical support, continue today.

Editors Note:

This completes the European section of our church’s origins. The American summary from Our Heritage of Faith (in this series) will be shorter. The magnitude of covering 90 or more congregations is prohibitive. Thus, the American development of the church can possibly be covered in three or four issues.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

Jesus Christ as our Friend

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:20-21

What a powerful prayer to read! As someone who has believed, I am in awe to realize that Jesus prayed for me that night. Even in his deepest sorrow and grief, I was not forgotten! He prayed that I would be united with all his children and that we would abide in him. He prayed for us to have a relationship with him like the relationship he has with his father!

A couple chapters before, Christ said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.” John 15:13-15

So what does it mean to be Jesus’ friend? Jesus says that if we do what he commands, we will be his friends. He says that we become friends because we have heard his Father’s teachings through him. Earlier in chapter fifteen, Jesus speaks of abiding in himself and bringing forth fruit. Also over and over again, he reminds his disciples to love one another and that their love will show the world that they follow him (John 13: 34-35, 15:12, 17). Jesus’ friends obey him, listen to him, follow him, abide in him, and love, love, love their Savior and everyone else.

Jesus is the best friend! He is everywhere, all the time, and he is never too busy for us. When I face difficult moments and emotions, I find it helpful to have conversations with Jesus and listen to what he says to me. I hear him say, “I see you. I hear your questions and worries. I understand how overwhelming this situation is for you, and I am so glad to be with you right now. Thank you for inviting me into this moment! I promise that I will never leave or forsake you. I will be strong through your weakness.”

We get specific in these conversations about what Jesus sees me doing at that moment and what he hears me saying in my mind. Sometimes Jesus says, “I see you sweeping the floor” or “I see the tears welling up in your eyes.” Sometimes Jesus hears me saying, “I messed up again. When will I ever learn?” or “I’m so angry. How can I forgive them?” What fills me with joy every time we have these conversations is the realization that Jesus wants to be with me even in those times of anger, shame, fear, or hopelessness!

Jesus tells us about this joy in John chapter fifteen after exhorting us to abide in himself. “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” John 15:11

Jesus is just waiting for us to come and share our lives with him, so that he can fill us with joy! He wants to be our Friend. What are we waiting for?

-by Laura Aviña
And will be Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:18