And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

Mark 16:2
Our Common Union

Many articles this month noted Easter, Communion, or Invite-a-Guest weekends. It doesn’t take long to see the link in these events, even if unstated.

Without the blood Christ shed on the cross, we would have no hope. Before he died, he gathered his disciples together to institute the practice of Communion as a way of binding them together in remembrance of him. In the moment this was happening, it isn’t clear that the disciples understood the importance of what they were doing. After the cross, the symbolism and shared experience would bind them together.

What does that have to do with Invite-a-Guest weekends? Those special times hinge on the same events that happened with the disciples. The blood of Christ brings us together, and forms the basis for our fellowship with each other. And often these weekends involve the literal breaking of bread together. While it isn’t the sacred event our Lord instituted, the experience is similar. Thankfulness for all he has done that binds us together.

In Christian love,
Rick and Michelle Kaisner, Silver Lining Editors

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Virtue

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.1

The Apostle Peter begins his second epistle, just three brief but compelling chapters, with the breath-taking statement that we are called “to glory and virtue” that we might be “partakers of the divine nature,” which we press into, among other things, by pursuing “virtue.”2 This calling into virtue is presented not so much as an obligation, but rather as an opportunity, a promise, and a privilege, with the effect of confirming our fruitful participation in Christ.3 As Peter notes, this building block on top of faith is an essential ingredient for further spiritual growth.4 In this sense, Peter echoes the Apostle John, who in the hope of being made like Christ, “purifieth himself, even as he is pure,”5 and the Apostle Paul as he admonishes us to “yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead . . . as instruments of righteousness unto God.”6 Indeed, the righteous deeds of the saints, which were ordained of God that we might walk in them,7 will be the glorious wedding dress of the Church at the marriage of the Lamb.8

To gain a greater sense of the beauty of virtue, it is helpful to examine the meaning of Christian virtue. As was noted at the 2021 Brotherhood Conference, virtue is not unique to the Christian. The Greeks and the Romans wrote extensively on virtue, and it is a safe assumption that every culture has in some manner claimed a virtuous ideal. But Christian virtue is distinctive. Virtue, closely related to valor (from the Latin virtus) and the Greek aretē, meaning manliness, carries with it the sense of moral excellence. Here is the biblical key: the Apostles understood that Jesus Christ, as fully God and fully man, is the perfect man8 and thus the living embodiment of disciplined and courageous moral excellence, or virtue. Virtue fully realized is not found in the Roman “citizen soldier” with imperial Caesar as its archetype, but rather in the courage, loyalty and dedication of the soldier of the cross who faithfully follows after Christ as his Lord and Master.10 Virtue is radically redefined in the courageous, loving humility and mercy of Christ.11 It is in this sense then, that the Apostle Paul charges the Corinthians, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with charity.”12 In other words, be virtuous, be courageous, be like Christ! Christ is the sole definition of our virtue.

If Christ is the Christian definition of virtue, it is equally important that Christ be the source of Christian virtue. To be like Christ, to embody is virtue in our bodies, is to bear the fruit of the Spirit within us, that is “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”13 This is a part of the promise, that by the Spirit’s living and active motivating presence in our lives, we can in fact walk in the virtue of Christ, who is not merely perfect man, but also God. Thus, the Christian receives the power to do what no man can do alone, to put on Christ by yielding himself unto God.14 Oh blessing upon blessing! But also take a caution here: if we ever seek to pursue virtue independently of the active outworking of the Spirit, no matter what manner of good we may accomplish, we will at best become a moral society, not a people of God made in his likeness.15 As such, like the wise virgins, we must keep our lamps,
Good afternoon and greetings to you all. I’ve opened to 1 Kings 8, and it’s a long chapter, 66 verses. We’ll maybe start at the first verse and read a portion of the scripture here: 1 Kings 8:1.

Let’s stop there at the 24th verse. Otherwise, we’re going to end up reading the whole chapter, and it’s going to take quite a while.

I’ve opened to hymn #141, Praise and Consecration, which kind of fits with the beginning of the temple here and Solomon’s prayer of dedication. Let’s sing #141 out of the Zion’s Harp.

We’ve got this long chapter; why don’t we just continue reading here in 1 Kings 8, and we’ll read about the prayer of dedication that Solomon had. Let’s restart at verse 22 to pick up again the beginning of the prayer.

We’ll stop there at verse 61, but I would encourage you to go back and read this when you get home.

It’s an amazing chapter of what went on there. You get a picture of all these people gathered at Jerusalem, and they’re all there for that dedication. They’re there, and God’s there. It says, “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.” (vv.10-11)

David said God couldn’t even fit in the temple. He knew that. The heavens couldn’t hold him, but God’s presence was there. God’s presence was in that temple. It was a special place for him.

This morning, I was reading in Exodus about the plagues. One thing struck me that I had not thought about before when it talked about the children of Israel. It was reaffirming that the children of Israel did this, and the children of Israel did that. At every moment, God was reaffirming his promise to Abraham. It was about God’s promise that he was going to make Abraham’s seed as the stars of the heaven, and here, he says, “the children of Israel, the children of Israel, the children of Israel.” Every time he mentioned it, he’s reaffirming that “this was my promise to Abraham that there would be all these children, all these people that would come from Abraham.” Here, they had all gathered. They went through all these years, and they came out of Egypt – even as it talked about here that “he brought them out of Egypt by a powerful hand” – and he comes to be with his promised ones.

Think about that in our lives. Consider the promise that God has laid upon you. Think about his son that died on the cross because he loved you so much. Then, think about the temple that you are. God came to dwell in this temple, but he also comes to dwell in the temple that is much more beautiful, more ornate, more incredible than any earthly temple could be – the temple of our bodies – because he loves us so deeply. We are his children, and he comes to dwell in us. He calls us to walk in obedience and to hear his voice. He wants us to be near him and to love him passionately.

As we go through this chapter here, Solomon stands before the altar. In verse 23, he says, “there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart.” There is no God like thee. There’s no other god. There’s no one else that does this: a God that loves us so much that he sent his only son down to die for
us. He cares for you. He cares for me. He loves us so passionately. He says, ‘I’m going to send my son down here to die because I love them, and there’s no way they can have a relationship with me outside of my son dying for them.’

It goes on in verse 24 and says, “Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand.” David is saying of God, “What you have said, you have fulfilled. You have done it with your own strength. You have prepared this and provided.” He will provide in our lives, maybe not how we see, maybe not how we imagine, but he will provide. He will care for us.

It says, “Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me” (v.25).

Verse 27 says, “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day.” (vv.27-28).

God hears our voice. He hears our prayers. He hears our groanings and our pains, and he will respond in his way and in his love. What that looks like in your life I don’t know.

“That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place” (v.29).

Then, he goes on and says these are situations that are going to arise. Maybe there’s a famine. Maybe there’s a battle. Maybe there’s a trespass against a neighbor. He says, “Turn to me in repentance. Turn to me in forgiveness. Seek forgiveness, and I will restore.” The power of God – there are so many places in here that I wanted to stop and speak about it. I thought if I stopped, I’d never get through reading it all, which I still didn’t, and now my eyes are having a hard time picking up on where it was that I wanted to stop.

God knows our lives. He knows the situations that come about. He knows our struggles and that we will fail. He knows that we are going to fall, and he provides an advocate for us. He provides a way for us to come to him in repentance and just say, ‘Lord, I’ve failed. I’ve sinned; forgive me, and he hears our voice and loves us. None of us are going to walk perfectly, but we know where to turn, and the children of Israel knew where to turn. God’s promised ones knew where to turn. Did they always do it? No. We can go through Judges, and it just looks like a mess. But he gives us that opportunity to turn to him in love, compassion, and humility and yield ourselves, saying, ‘Lord, I’ve failed; show me what to do.’ He turns around and says, “I love you, my child. I love you so deeply, so passionately. I care for you beyond your understanding, and I desire the very best for you and all that you have. It may not look like what we think it should look like, but he loves us, and he cares for us.

In verse 57, it says, “The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us.” That stands true today. The Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers, with our families, with those that went before us, and let us not leave him nor forsake him.
Ministry Program Updates

How are Things in Mexico, Really? *Mexico Committee*

“Greetings, how are you doing?”
“I am doing fine, thanks for asking.”

We know that exchange. And, we know that there is a wide range of meaning behind someone answering “fine.” In that scenario, “fine” could mean that life is really going well. Or, “fine” could mean that while the fundamentals of life are going well enough to respond positively, life is actually hard in ways that I do not want to explain. In our cultural context, it is generally accepted and appropriate to say “fine” even when life is going less than fine. Why is that?

In general, the person replying has no interest in being dishonest, but it is also well known that once you say that things are not fine, there is an obligatory response from the other person to inquire and express care. So, it is common, when there is either not safety with that other person or not time/space for the conversation, to say fine even when things are not fine.

The above scenario has a healthy tension, we get asked “how are you doing” all the time and we do not have the safety/space to explain to everyone how we are doing. At the same time, we often know in giving an answer of “fine” that we can hide behind that answer and not share openly during times that it would be helpful to be transparent. We could all probably be a bit more “honest” with each other in answering that question.

This same concept is true in HarvestCall newsletters, emails, and articles. I am writing this article as a summary of how our ministries are doing in Mexico (Magdalena, Ixtlan, and Barra Vieja.) And, in the majority of our communications, you have heard that question.

An Opportunity to Share the Gospel Without Leaving Home

*Child Sponsorship Committee*

The Apostolic Christian Church’s stated purpose is “to glorify God, by loving as Jesus loves.” As a church body, we are called to love all people as Jesus loves all people. We are to show this love by glorifying God, doing good works, and sharing the gospel.

Caught up in our abundant (i.e. busy) lives, raising our families, work, church, and community activities, we may wonder how we can make an impact in the world beyond our immediate locality.

Child Sponsorship is a practical way to show God’s love to children around the world.

Sponsors are affecting children’s lives in ways that go beyond today. A Christian education will help the children as they become adults and raise their own families.

The mission of HarvestCall’s Child Sponsorship program is to “provide a Christ-centered education to needy children.” Child Sponsorship directly supports the education (tuition, books, and uniforms) of over 1800 students in five countries: Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, Jamaica, and Zambia. In addition, the program supports 133 schools in Haiti where the gospel reaches 13,000 students annually.
likely read or seen that the ministries are doing “fine.” And, in many ways, it is true, the fundamentals of God’s faithfulness, the gospel being shared, growth happening, and believers living faithfully are present in each of these ministries. To God be the glory!

But, let’s assume after you hear that first answer, you would ask further, “no, tell me how things are really going.” The answer would change. It would not negate the first answer as all of those things are true. But, in the day to day, it is not that simple, not that clear, and does not feel so “fine.”

**Here are a Few of the Realities:**

1. There are legitimate conflicts between believers.
2. Changes and transitions within these ministries create legitimate distress and grief.
3. There are differences in approaches to ministry that creates dissonance.
4. There are significant questions about how to handle situations that do not have clear answers.
5. Each ministry is made up of individuals whose life experience and background impacts their daily lives and service, sometimes in ways that conflict.

These are not the details, just a broad expression of honesty to encourage your hearts towards prayer and support. The details are the story of those living these realities. It is their lives and their service. We share this information to both bring awareness and respect for these tensions. It would not be possible or appropriate to fill every article with the full story. But, it is helpful for each of us to remember that similar to the time when we ask someone how they are doing and they answer, “fine,” that we know that there is likely more to the story. Our prayers and compassion for them even though they are doing “fine” are still important and necessary. That is the encouragement of this article. A reminder that our hearts and prayers can continue to be shared without us knowing all of the details. And, for those ministries in Mexico which are currently experiencing conflicts, transitions, and challenges, may our heart go out to them in prayer and love. To God be the glory!

*by Kirk Plattner,*

HarvestCall Country Director for Mexico

Several years ago, researchers studied a Christian sponsorship program much like our HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program. The study found that sponsored children were more likely to finish school than unsponsored children in the same community. As adults, they were more likely to become community leaders, to be church leaders, and to have better jobs.

We know from experience that our program provides similar results.

Supporting a child’s Christian education through Child Sponsorship can have far-reaching implications for more than just that individual child. It is a simple way to reach beyond our day-to-day lives and show God’s love in a way that just might positively change a life, a family, and possibly even a community.

*by Sally Gress*
“Pay attention.” How many times have you been told this? How many times have you told it to others? We are not convinced that focus and concentration will make the difference. But yet, it truly does.

Our attention is a much sought-after commodity. In fact, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and media of all types measure success by grabbing and keeping the attention of their users. Attention is the currency that translates into advertising which converts to dollars for the media platform.

If we think we control the product which the currency of our attention purchases, we would be wrong. There is an important truth about attention that everyone spending it should know. That is, we become what we pay attention to. Attention in one direction, over time, will shape us into the conformity of that object. Very often our attention purchases us more than we bargained for. Devoted attention to various media sites can shape what we think of our physical appearance; what we think of social movements; what we think love is; or what we think truth is. We are shaped to fear, to worry, to agree, to disagree, to be agitated, or to be compassionate. Attention plus time equals mirroring what we are paying attention to.

“And be not conformed to this world” Rom 12:2

Certainly, this calls us to be circumspect. What is the content I am paying attention to? Is it true? Is it balanced? Is it biblical? If a believer is conformed to this world, certainly his or her attention has played an active role. Yet there is a terrific promise in the axiom that we become what we pay attention to.

but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” Rom 12:2

Attention plus time attending to Jesus will have the effect of Christlikeness in our lives. We will more readily respond like Him, think like Him, love what He loves, and hate what He hates when we pay attention to Him. The transformation of a believer into the likeness of Christ is not necessarily complicated or mysterious. Everywhere you find Christlikeness in God’s children, you will find an attentive person to Christ.

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Cor 3:18

Take some time to pay attention to your attention with the encouragements below:

- Who and what is vying for your attention on social media? Take some time to do some custodial work in your social media feeds. Use the controls provided to curate a social media experience that is not distracting.
• **Intentionally place reminders in your life that can re-direct your attention to Jesus.**
  Posted Bible verses, music tracks, Bible passages read aloud to you, text reminders to check-in on friends, or a phone call to a believer can bring your mind back to Christlikeness.
• **Practice silence with God.** Draw yourself silent and shut out the stimuli of your world. Begin with small amounts of time, a few minutes for example, and work yourself up to a longer period of time.

ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals, parents, and the church family in considering the influence of technology on our lives. This article, a paper on Technology Principles, a guide to a Family Technology Plan, Technology Discussion Aids, and other quick reference resources can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/technology. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536 or info@accounseling.org.

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**Technology And Our Heart**

Technology in today’s world is integrated into many aspects of our lives. Apps keep us up-to-date. Devices keep us connected to loved ones and our church family. Work tasks are increasingly done remotely via online meetings. Consider the role of technology in your life in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and the shelter-in-place our federal and state governments have created. These changes in our typical schedules have had the potential to draw us into technology with a much greater propensity and has become a vital and even necessary connection tool for many of us. Yet, this integration of technology can have a dramatic impact on our daily lives, including our spiritual walk. While Scripture doesn’t mention terms like “breaking news” or “CDC reports” or “Facebook feed”, it gives us concepts which serve as heart checks to consider how we are stewarding our hearts and our sound minds at all times, even in the midst of an event like COVID-19 (2 Tim. 1:7). Below are a few concepts and questions to bear in mind:

**What am I Prioritizing?**

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” Eph. 5:15-16

**Where am I Showing Discipline?**

“That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;” – 1Th 4:4

**How am I Showing Balance in my Reactions?**

Rom. 5:3-5

**What am I Reciting to Myself?**

“That thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Is. 26:3
Apostolic Christian LifePoints

www.aclifepoints.org
@aclifepoints on Facebook or Instagram

Ashlyn Gramm-Mission
Communication Coordinator

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” Psa. 100:1-3

Join us Saturday April 30, 2022, as we make a joyful noise together at the Five Points auditorium in Washington, IL for the annual LifePoints Gospel Sing. Doors will open at 5:30 PM, and the program will begin at 6:00 PM. Tickets can be reserved online at our website: www.aclifepoints.org.

The Gospel Sing will feature two performing groups – Claire, Joe and Rose Dill, and Living Water. We are very excited for the musical talent they will be sharing with us that evening. We are also looking forward to hearing from one of our residents’ family members about the impact Apostolic Christian LifePoints has had on their family’s life. There will be a free will offering collected, and those funds help us to provide Christian homes for adults with developmental disabilities.

This evening is a time of fellowship among the LifePoints residents who attend, their families, and our church family. It’s a chance for us to say thank you to all who support LifePoints’ mission, whether that be in prayer, financially, or in service. Ultimately, the Gospel Sing is about praising and worshiping God for his provision and blessings on our agency and those we serve. We would love to share in this evening with each of you!

More details can be found on our website. May God be glorified!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Chad Kaeb – Development Director

Throughout 2021, I had the opportunity to connect with nine former residents, two mentees, and our former foster son. I am so thankful for each of these relationships that, because of your support of the ministry of Gateway Woods, God has brought into my life. All of them, although each are in a different place in life, have been a blessing that has enriched my earthly journey.

Take Josh, for example. Josh is living on his own and is working full time, all while going back to school to finish his bachelor’s degree. He has such an amazing story of redemption and has a huge heart for giving back to those who invested in him, so one meal our family shared with him, he completely covered for us! I always enjoy spending time with Josh and I’m thankful for the testimony of God’s work in his life.

Then there’s Riley: a former resident that we hadn’t had contact with for ten years. We received a letter from him this summer, seemingly out of the blue. After he left Gateway, he made some poor choices that landed him in prison. It was during his time behind bars, that God finally got his attention. He began a walk with Jesus and was baptized! Riley is evidence for me that even during our darkest times, God never stops his pursuit of souls in need of a Savior.

Raven was always an independent young lady and that trait has served her well as a single mom of two boys. Surviving in the big city of Chicago is not easy, but she has done an admirable job of providing for her family. While she does not profess a relationship with Christ, I definitely see her seeking for truth through her frequent Bible questions whenever we talk. I am so thankful for God’s hand of protection and provision in her life!

This past December, our former foster son reached out
and wanted to know if he could go to church with us. We have kept in somewhat limited contact with him, but this was the first time in 5 years that he came to church and celebrated Christmas with our family. While it was difficult circumstances that motivated him to reach out, I am so thankful that God has brought him back into our lives. His heart is soft and open to God’s leading, and I pray it stays that way.

Throughout the years, most of these relationships have been somewhat unpredictable as many of our former Gateway kids have drifted in and out of our lives. There are some wanting independence and space. There are some in the middle of difficult situations and need advice, help, and prayers. Others are doing well and it is so humbling and rewarding to hear from them.

As I praise God for the blessings of each of these relationships, I thank him for where they all started: the campus of Gateway Woods. Through your generosity, you are investing in the eternal effects that relationships like these can have. Your involvement is making an impact for the Kingdom and it does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for being a blessing to Gateway Woods in 2021!

**News:**

- If you would like to seize a great opportunity to impact the lives of youth, consider applying to be the Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2022. Contact Bro. Keith Schambach at keith.schambach@gatewaywoods.org for more information.
- If you would like to gain some real-life classroom experience while impacting our residents, consider applying to be the Summer Education Intern. Contact Bro. Brock Williamson at brock.williamson@gatewaywoods.org for more information.
- If you would like to work directly with residents as you plant and harvest bountiful gifts from the garden, consider applying to be the GW Farms Summer Intern. Contact Bro. Eric Bahler at gwfarms@gatewaywoods.org for more information.
- We have many career openings right now! For more information, please see our ad or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers.

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.ringer@gatewaywoods.org.

**Alabama, Athens**

*Lisa Aschliman, Kristy Moore*

“Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 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

We have all been concerned with what is happening in Ukraine and have been praying fervently for God to give them comfort and hope in the days and weeks to come. We are hopeful he will make a way in the wilderness.

Our small church family is looking forward to the new year with the hope of less sickness and more time we can spend together. We had church Communion in February, and it is always a solemn and soul-searching time.
We also got together to clean the church in February. Many hands make light work, and we enjoy working together.

We are preparing for our third year of ALive over Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-30) and look forward to seeing all of you who will be there. Registration is open now. Please see the Apostolic Christian Church of Athens’ website at http://www.athensacchurch.org/alive for more information on the event and registration.

We ask for continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis and Shawn Ray who have ongoing health issues and for our small church to be lights in our community.

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
Marge Lindenbaum

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat." Lev. 16:2

The Hebrew word for “mercy seat” in this reference is Strong’s number h3737, and is the same word as is used for “propitiation” in Romans 3:25, “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”

The process required for the atonement of Israel’s sins is detailed in Leviticus 16. This is done on the Day of Atonement, the sixth of seven Feasts of the Lord outlined in Leviticus 23. It is the most somber of the Feasts, and represents the day the people can be restored to relationship with the Lord, through the efforts of the high priest on their behalf. This is the only day of the year, and the only way there could be atonement for their sins.

The mercy seat represents the throne of God, and his presence. It was kept in the most Holy place within the veil, where any unholiness would result in death (See Lev. 10).

The veil surrounding the ark and enclosing the Holy place is described in Exodus 36. It was 15 feet per side, so it was a total of 60 feet long. It was 30 feet high, and ancient writings say it was the breadth of a man’s hand thick and required 300 men to lift it.

The mercy seat covered the ark of the covenant, which contained the tablets of the law, and the golden pot of manna and Aaron’s rod. It consisted of two cherubim made of pure gold, facing each other, and forming a seat. It was the place designated for God to meet and commune with Moses, and later the high priest on behalf of the Israelites (Ex. 25:22). (Cherubim were placed at the entrance of the Garden of Eden, and may have the job of guardians to the presence of God.). There, the high priest offered the blood of a bullock for his own sins and the blood of a goat for the sins of the people. Before the high priest could approach with the blood, he had to take coals from the altar and sweet incense and bring it into the Holy place, then put the incense onto the coals to create a cloud to cover the mercy seat so he would not see God and die. And God would come and look through the incense and the sprinkled blood and sins would be absolved. (Just as he sees us through the covering of Jesus’s blood.)

The tabernacle was a perfect representation of the plan of God for salvation through his Son. Prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection, the ceremonies of substitutionary sacrifice were necessary for relationship with God. These are shadows, and the reality takes place in the spiritual realm. Jesus is our mercy seat, our incense, our sacrifice, our altar, our bread, our candlestick and our everything, bringing us back to communion with our God. Since his substitutionary sacrifice, the veil is torn and we are able to come boldly before the throne of grace and mercy. Happy Resurrection Day!

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into
heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:” Heb 9:24

We have been blessed again with a number of visiting ministers, whose service we appreciate so much. These included Bro. Scott Mangers (Sis. Shayna, Altadena, CA), Bro. Matt Wulf (Sis. Tara, Morris, MN), Bro. Phillip Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI).

We were blessed as the young group hosted an “invite” in February and many young adults were here to worship with us.

We rejoice that Bro. Victor Krstec was able to join us for worship the last couple of Sundays, and prayers continue for Sis. Louann Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave) as her battle with pain is not yet won. May you have a blessed Easter celebrating the Lord’s death and resurrection, and all that it means to us!

Arizona, Willcox
Annie Wulf

We were thankful to have Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) share the word with us in March.

Micah and Elizabeth Fehr and big sister, Catalina, welcomed little Emiliano Micah into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Antonio and Maribel Mendez of Willcox.

We are planning an open house and a dedication service for the Willcox church. The events will be May 14-15. Everyone is welcome. Please let us know if you plan to attend. You can email kevin.annie.wulf@gmail.com or call 320.349.0703.

“Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him…” 2 Chr. 2:4

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings to each of you. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis Jonell, Rittman, OH) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). We were blessed to be served Communion and to hear God’s love for all.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

When Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room before his crucifixion, they celebrated a familiar and defining tradition. All of them were familiar with Passover, having faithfully kept it year after year since their childhoods. The table was laid with the familiar foods, they spoke the familiar words and told the same old, old story of their forefathers miraculously delivered from slavery, and raised the cups of wine with each “Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe…”

We gathered for a familiar traditional “feast” in much the same way this month. Instead of low tables at which to recline and rejoice in freedom, we filled the pews of the church’s sanctuary. Instead of a whole meal, just bread and wine sat on the trays waiting up on the pulpit. But we heard the same story of the people of Israel obeying God’s command to put the blood of the lamb on the door frame, though now, the blood of the Lamb carries extra meaning because Jesus added some words to that familiar story when he and his disciples met for what would be their last Passover together. “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” Luke 22:19-20. It’s his blood which we pray is applied to the doorposts of our hearts. We gather to remember. Just like they gathered to remember how God delivered them. We also take the bread and wine at Communion each year to remember our deliverance.
Think about how loaded the Passover meal was under Roman oppression. Here they were suffering under a kind of slavery again even while they remembered God’s mighty deliverance from Pharaoh. What about Caesar? Would God deliver them again? While they couldn’t fully see it, their eternal deliverance was about to be accomplished. In the same way, our deliverance is already accomplished, but not yet fully realized. We come together amid brokenness and pain in the world around us and in our own lives and receive the promise again as we drink the cup of redemption. Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) were with us to lead us in remembering and proclaiming, Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Amid the turmoil and pain, we see unfolding overseas, we are so thankful that “a mighty fortress is our God”. As we sing in verse two, our strength is in him, and he will win the battle. Our hearts and prayers are with our brethren in the Ukraine and Eastern Europe during this time.

Our visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL). We thank them for serving us during their time here in the Denver area.

We said goodbye to our Bro. Michael Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni) as he finished his earthly race. Our church family has so many treasured memories with Michael from the many years he assembled with the Denver congregation before moving to Bayfield, CO a few years ago.

We will miss Michael but rejoice knowing he has received the great reward.

Colorado, Denver

Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller

"Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth is His name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle."
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,
Tabernacle Hymns, #238

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Clarendon, VT), and want to express our gratitude to each of them.

We rejoice that a heavenly victory has been won for Sis. Lavina Ballasy. Her children are Keith (Stephanie, Bryan, TX), Bro. Kevin (Sis. Jane), Dawn Winans (Ellington, CT) and Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro. Dwight, Lester, IA). We extend our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

Little Henry Douglas was born to Bro. Stephen and Sis. JaNae Schneider. We continue to lift them up in prayer for strength and growth!

Connecticut, Rockville

Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider

We rejoice as five converts were baptized and we welcome them as new sisters and brothers into our fellowship: Sis. Faith Luginbuhl (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi), Sis. Rachel Mangold (Dave and Sis. Heather), Bro. Wade Luginbuhl (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Colleen), Bro. Brendan Couzens (Bro. Matt and Sis. Cathryn), and Bro. Colin Garrow (Bro. John and Sis. Rhonda).

We were blessed to be served by Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Clarendon, VT), and want to express our gratitude to each of them.

We rejoice that a heavenly victory has been won for Sis. Lavina Ballasy. Her children are Keith (Stephanie, Bryan, TX), Bro. Kevin (Sis. Jane), Dawn Winans (Ellington, CT) and Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro. Dwight, Lester, IA). We extend our thoughts and prayers to her family and friends.

Little Henry Douglas was born to Bro. Stephen and Sis. JaNae Schneider. We continue to lift them up in prayer for strength and growth!

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

The past couple of months I have reported on snow and cold in our area. This month we had an 80-degree day and six days later we had 2 inches of snow and windchill in the single digits. I think spring is here. The early flowers are blooming, and the trees have hints of green. By the time you read this the cherry blossoms will be finished, and the second round of trees and bushes will be blooming. This is the time of year we can appreciate the different ways God makes our world so beautiful.

Due to scheduling conflicts this month we only had one visiting minister, Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL).
We were able to gather in person for a farewell dinner for Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen at Bro. Phil and Mona Steffen’s home. Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen have been such a big part of our congregation for many years. We wish them God’s blessings as they move to the Bluffton area.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703.217.0576, hmeyer2831@gmail. com for assistance, to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services and to find out when and where services are to be held.

**Florida, Fort Lauderdale**

**Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Sharing God’s word with us were Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH), Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). We pray they will be blessed for their efforts.

Our prayers for comfort and peace go out to Bro. Floyd Bliss and daughter Sis. Renna on the passing of Sis. Wilma this past week. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Wilma have been winter visitors in Fort Lauderdale for years. They liked to stay for a nice long time in the winters, always were among the first to volunteer for any project, serve lunch, sit and visit with anyone and were a great blessing to our congregation. Sis. Wilma will be missed. We rejoice knowing she is with our Heavenly Father.

**Florida, Sarasota**

**Becky Funk**

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:19

Our hearts are saddened with the passing of Bro. Bobby Cochran. We extend our sympathy to his wife Sis. Paulette and their family. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Mark Funk (Sis. Becky) on the passing of his dear sister Ruth. May they be comforted knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Many prayers to these dear families.

We always appreciate visiting ministers and thank Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL), Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) for sharing the Word of God with us.

Our congregation enjoyed Family Night on February 25. Bro. Ray and Sis. Gladys Slagel (Fairbury, IL) made homemade ice cream. We also sang, played games, and enjoyed blessed fellowship.

**Illinois, Belvidere**

**Darcy Steffen**

Three more souls are looking forward to endless life awaiting them in heaven! We were thrilled to greet our new brother and sisters in Christ this month. Sis. Leah Anliker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg) and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Williams shared the testimony of their conversion. Sis. Leah was baptized, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary were brought into the membership without re-baptism as they have already been baptized in another church.

The weekend was an incredible blessing and encouragement to our church! We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL). Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL) also preached the Word of God to us that weekend.

This month was busy for us as we had Invite-a-Friend, as well. We thank Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Fred Deitz (Sis. Shaena,Elgin, IL) for sharing in the pulpit ministry.

We also had a church work day at Bro. Karl and Mitzi Braun’s new house. We were grateful that some young brothers and sisters from Forrest came to help and to join us in worship on Sunday!

“I come to the tomb where they laid Him Who had died to atone for my sin I seek but all vainly to find Him Just the grave clothes are lying within. A voice ‘tis the voice of an angel Tells of how He is living again So death and the grave
could not hold Him
So the watch and the
seal are in vain.
And when His own
words I remember
Since He liveth I also shall live
The pledge of His
own resurrection
Doth assure me - what
else could He give?
Oh, glorious hope set before me!
Like an anchor it
steadies my soul
He liveth, and I shall live also
While the years of eternity roll.
It is more than a dream
It is more than a song
It is more than a
yearning or prayer
Tis a promise most dear
Tis a hope bright and clear
Endless life is a-waiting
me there."
It Is More Than a Dream,
William M. Runyan

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

"O that men would praise
the Lord for his goodness, and
for his wonderful works to the
children of men!” Ps. 107:8

At this time in Bradford, we
are thankful for the wonderful
opportunity to work together
on our church building. Our
site superintendent, Bro. Walt
Beery, estimates that we are at
the halfway point with about five
months until completion.

Bro. Walt and his wife Sis.
Lynda, lifelong residents of the
Rittman, OH area, are parents
of six children: Sis. Laurie
Winkler (Bro. Darin), Bro.
Chad (Sis. Katie), and Eric,
all of Rittman. Sis. Michelle
Rassi (Bro. Nathan, St. Louis,
MO), Sis. Hannah Maibach
(Bro. Garth, Sardis, OH), and
Sis. Leah Endress (Bro. Tyler,
Bradford, IL). Bro. Tyler and
Sis. Leah had provided a home
base for Bro. Walt until early
February when they had to move
out of their home following
a kitchen fire that produced
extensive smoke damage. During
the remediation, the Endress
family is living in Sis. Renee
Endress’ basement, and Bro.
Walt is staying at Macon Center
where our out-of-town volunteers
are housed.

Bro. Walt retired from
Lockheed Martin in Akron,
OH, after 42 years as a project
planner. He brings much
experience and enthusiasm
to church building projects,
having assisted Philadelphia, PA,
Columbus, OH, and Toledo,
OH in previous years. This
has given him a collection of
interesting stories to share. His
usual response to “How did it go
today?” is, “We had a wonderful
day!” When asked what he
likes about his job, he said,
“Interacting with the volunteers,
feeling the prayers of the church,
and building many precious
memories.” Only the Lord can
properly reward him and all the
volunteers who have contributed
time and talent. We thank you
all and pray the Lord will bless
each one.

Our ministering Bro.
Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya) recently
shared helpful thoughts and
research concerning our use and
management of technology.

Sis. Teresa Gudeman (Bro.
Brad) is recovering at home after
knee replacement surgery.

We continue to hold Sis.
Marilyn Nenadov up in prayer
as she is confronted with several
health issues.

We were pleased that Shannon
(Pyles) Varga and children Sofia,
Wade, and Ellie could come from
Kitchener, Ontario, and spend
time with family and friends
after a long absence because of
COVID-19 restrictions.

Illinois, Champaign
Aaron Walder

What an exciting time to be
alive! Lately, do many of the news
headlines seem like they are taken
directly from the Word? May we
all continue to watch, pray, warn, comfort, and look up!

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thes. 4:16.

We are grateful to Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL) and our counseling Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for visiting and bringing us the gospel message from the pulpit.

We rejoice with Bro. Andrew Walker and Sis. Joy Hinrichsen as they were united in our Lord as husband and wife. We appreciate Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) for sharing in this special weekend.

We are thankful to announce that, by the grace of God, Owen Gerber has repented, placed his faith in Jesus Christ, and is now seeking baptism. Surely heaven is rejoicing as another soul has answered the call to the marriage supper of the Lamb!

On a Saturday, the 6th-8th grade Sunday school class was able to travel to the Ark Encounter. All were thankful for safe travels and another opportunity to learn about salvation. From the report given in Sunday school, it was clear the students and adults alike were blessed.

The young group was able to spend time at Gateway Woods over spring break. We are grateful for God’s blessings on their interactions and work there.

We have enjoyed the first two parts in a Wednesday night series on church history. Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) spoke on the early church and our own Bro. Paul Plattner covered the Reformation. We are looking forward to learning more about the Anabaptists this month.

So far, it has been a wonderful reminder of God’s providence, as well as a reminder the Bible is not merely a collection of stories passed down through generations. The Word has been settled in heaven forever, and it will continue to stand forever (Psa. 119:89; Isa. 40:8). The Word survived the persecution of the early church; it survived the Reformation; it will even survive the time of Jacob’s trouble. It will survive until Jesus destroys the last enemy—death itself. Then, if we have humbled ourselves in true repentance, we will live in the presence of the Word for eternity.

“Ah, how I long now to depart
To satisfy my weary heart
With Thee, O life immortal!
When can I soon to Thee ascend
To where my thoughts
do daily wend
And enter heaven’s portal?
I would forget this
world and strife
And work for sweet eternal life.”
Blest Eternity, Zion’s Harp #103
We bid farewell to our dear Bro. Norm and Sis. Gloria Stahl in early March as they have relocated to Peoria, IL. The Sunday prior to their move, we held a farewell celebration following the afternoon service, and several from their family were able to join us. It was a special time of sharing our love, precious memories, and well wishes as they step forward in faith to this new chapter. They have been a part of the Chicago church family for many years, and we pray for God’s blessings in their new home and church community.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Denise Kaeb, Lou Ann Kaeb

“Oh, how joyful is the hour
When we, Lord, draw nigh to Thee,
And the words of life and power
From Thy holy lips receive.
May we not in vain assemble
‘Round Thy word, O Lord, today;
Into our hearts meek and humble
Write the Word of Life, we pray!”

Thou Hast Words of Life,
Zions Harp, #203

We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers in the past month. Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) shared the Word with us on two Sundays. Bro. Josh came back on a Wednesday evening to share a topical Bible presentation with us. He spoke on Our Goodly Heritage. Thanks, brothers, for spending time with us and for the encouragement to stay steady in the battle.

“What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev’rything to God in prayer!”

What A Friend, Hymns of Zion, #161.

We lift up Scott Beer (Debbie), in prayer as he has spent time in the hospital due to infection. We are praying that they can feel the healing hand of God through this journey.

We are very thankful that Diane Hofer has regained strength and was able to leave Fairview Haven and come back home. We pray she can continue to feel God’s caring arms around her.

Illinois, Congerville

Tory Currier, Krista Wieland

I find that I appreciate having visitors even more now than I used to before COVID-19 affected travel. Do I have to lose things to realize how much they mean to me? What other things in my life should I be thanking God for more while I have them? We want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA) for sharing the Word with us. All our visitors have been a huge blessing!

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope), who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, March 2. He spoke on our Church’s Guiding Principles D and E.

Bro. Norm Schock (Sis. Ginny) was in the hospital recently for a cardiac stent insertion and is now recovering at home.

Note of Thanks:
The family of Sis. DeLores Kellenberger wishes to express their heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for the prayers, words of comfort, support, and acts of kindness. We are so blessed to have such a caring church family. May God bless each one of you.

Illinois, Eureka

Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher

Adjusting to the time change in the spring often leaves me awake during the night for longer than I’d like to be. This reminds me of a conversation I had with a woman who was our mail carrier; she said that she hadn’t slept well the night before and then remarked, “My grandma always said that when you can’t sleep in the middle of the night, that’s a sign that there’s someone you should be praying for!” Isn’t that good advice for any time that we’re frustrated at having to wait? We feel stuck in a checkout line, on hold on the phone, in a traffic slowdown, or at a super-long traffic light – but is there someone we should be praying for? The answer is always “yes!” and God quickly supplies us a name or many names. Let us be
fervent in prayer. That is time we can be sure is not being wasted, no matter what time it is.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who brought us the Word this month. They included Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA).

We give thanks also for all who were part of our Spring Invite-a-Guest on March 12-13. It was wonderful to have so many churches represented and makes us thankful that the past two years with pandemic restrictions are now past. May we always treasure each other and the times we can spend together.

Our sympathy and prayers for healing go out to our Sis. Arletta Martin (Bro. Lewis, dec.) for her recent hospitalization.

**Note of thanks:**
We’d like to thank and wish God’s blessings to all who prayed for our dear husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather during his illness and hospitalization. All of us greatly appreciated the kindnesses shown during the days that followed his passing. Bob loved his family and everyone!

Sis. Charlene and family of Bro. Bob Schumacher.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger**

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.” 1 Cor. 11:24

As we anticipated the coming Easter Season, it was good to break bread and drink of the wine together in remembrance of what Christ has done for us. We thank Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) along with Elder Bro. Rick Plattner for serving us Communion. It is always a blessing to remember.

We are prayerful for Sis. Mary Etta Mullen (Bro. Dan) and Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim), who are recovering from recent surgery. May God provide healing.

We thank the visiting ministers that came this month: Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA), Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) and Bro. Ted Bachtold (Sis. Teresa, Forrest, IL). May the Lord bless these brothers for being willing to serve us.

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Jessica Edwards, Marsha Lanz**

As the last remains of snow melt away and temperatures turn warmer, it’s easy to feel the hope that spring brings. May that turn our minds to the lasting hope we have in God.

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.” Lam. 3:22-24

Bro. Brad Stoller (Sis. Amanda, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL) shared the word of God with us this month. May the seeds of truth they plant bring forth a bountiful harvest.

We are thankful for Jessiah Breeden and pray that God will continue to be with him in his ongoing repentance and conversion. After assembling with us for several months, he now has a desire to be baptized and become part of our church body. We are also prayerful for Kimber Edelman (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol) as she begins her repentance. There is much rejoicing in heaven when even one soul turns to God!

Prayers are with our Bro. Ed Wenger (Sis. Renee) as he recovers from surgery. May God continue to grant healing and restoration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Herb Bachtold (Sis. Jan), Sis. Roberta Broquard (Bro. Wayne) and Sis. Gloria Drayer (Bro. Wayne) as they laid their brother, Roger Bachtold, to rest. May God comfort their hearts during this time of loss.

We thank the congregation at Bluffton North, IN, for graciously hosting the Mid-Winter Conference. Once again, prayers were answered and God’s presence was felt.
Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

“So amid the conflict, whether great or small, Do not be discouraged, God is over all; Count your many blessings, angels will attend, Help and comfort give you to your journey’s end…”

Count Your Blessings, Hymns of Zion, #116

Surely there is much conflict all around us, but this beautiful hymn reminds us that we need not fall prey to despair as our God is bigger than all the conflicts we face. We were reminded recently by our ministering Bro. Ty Taufer that even though we face conflict and frustration, we have peace in the journey. We might be paying higher gas prices, but we don’t live in fear of being shelled or mortared and we are not fleeing our homes. Let us continue to pray for the churches in Ukraine as they endure the hardship of war and invasion.

We also pray for those of our church family who are suffering and possibly discouraged at this time. Madolyn Tanner spent a few days in the hospital and is now recuperating at the Eureka Home. Bro. Jerry Steffen (Sis. Allene) is in the hospital as of this writing. We lift them both up to the Father in prayer as well as those who care for them.

God is our greatest comforter when we experience the death of a loved one. Rob Gregoire (Sis. Diane) said their earthly goodbyes to Rob’s mother, Dorothy. Pete Hoekstra (Sis. Jacey) laid Pete’s mother, Ginger, to rest. Our condolences and love to each of these couples and their families during this time of grief.

“Count your many blessings, money cannot buy, Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high…”

Our reward in heaven! How thankful we are for Taylor Kloter and MaryBeth Schmidgall as Taylor has begun her walk with the Lord and MaryBeth was announced for baptism. Taylor is the daughter of Chad and Kalene Kloter and MaryBeth is the wife of Chris Schmidgall.

Children are one of life’s greatest blessings and Bro. Matt and Sis. Hannah Grimm are rejoicing in the birth of Haldon Matthew on February 17. Adelaide and Palmer are excited for a new playmate. Loving grandparents are Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN).

Many from our church family enjoyed a benefit dinner and silent auction on February 26 to raise funds for our Bible Class students’ trip to Sunset Gap, TN this summer.

Our only guest speaker this past month was Bro. Mike Meece (Sis. Barb, Bloomington, IL). Bro. Mike shared his experiences from the Vietnam War in a very moving talk entitled “Surrender to Victory—Christ on the Battlefield”.

We are thankful that he was protected so that he could share such insightful stories with us. Bro. Mike was baptized in Goodfield church years ago and he and Sis. Barb raised their children here but then moved to Bloomington in 2001, so it was nice to have them “home” again.

We support the following brothers and sisters who will be new Sunday school teachers in the fall: Bro. Nate Sauder (Sis. Emily), Bro. Jesse Ruegsegger (Sis. Tiffany), Bro. Jon Hohulin (Sis. Abby), Bro. Matt Grimm (Sis. Hannah), Bro. Austin McClure (Sis. Rachel), Sis. Saige Anderson, Sis. Sara Glueck (Bro. Herman, dec.), and Sis. Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Darrell). Bro. Greg Post (Sis. Missy) will fill the new trustee position and Bro. Mike and Sis. Paula Hartman will fill the vacant spot on the kitchen committee. We sincerely thank all the outgoing teachers and committee members for the time they spent on behalf of the students and our church family.

Note of thanks:
I wish to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my 99th birthday. I appreciate the cards and well wishes from so many! I love you all, Sis. Vi Wagner

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

We offer our sympathies to the Bro. Roger Funk family for the loss of their sister, Ruth
Funk, who resided in El Paso. Ruth was survived by four sisters, Susan Funk and Connie Hasty, Eureka; Sis. Miriam Kath (Doug); Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Larry, Bluffton North, IN); four brothers, Bro. Roger (Sis. Bonnie) and James, (Gridley, IL); Bro. Mark (Sis. Becky, Sarasota, FL); and Ben, (Kirkland, WA). She is remembered for having a memory of extreme accuracy and detail.

Jim Wellwood fractured his forearm and had surgery. We surely wish him well.

Bro. Mike Kaisner (Sis. Mindy, Peoria, IL) spoke to our church on Wednesday evening, March 9. His topic was “God is Sovereign in His Plans and Purposes.” The 2022 theme of these special presentations is “The Attributes of God.”

We were glad to host Fairbury and Goodfield congregations for our monthly singing on March 20.

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner

“Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.” Matt 5:13-14

February 26, Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) gave us many teachings, guidance and direction with the Topical Presentation “Singleness, Marriage and the Church”. As we fellowship one with another, let us be mindful of each person’s position in our congregation and be an encouragement to them whether single or married, knowing God is in control of each of our lives.

February 27, Bro. Jeremiah Psinas led our Family Recognition Service as six babies born in 2021 were introduced. We were all encouraged to love each other as we love our children. Jesus said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom as a little child, he shall not enter therein.” Mark 10:14-15. We thank Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL) who blessed us by sharing the truth of God’s Word during the morning service. Their granddaughter was one of the 2021 babies.

We are starting a new series at our Family Worship Nights entitled “Counter the Culture”. March 2, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) spoke on the topic “A Christian’s Call in a Polarized World”. We were reminded that the church is an oasis in a world gone mad. We are in a battle between us and the world. We should speak truth with love. And, most importantly, Jesus is the solution.

March 6 we were excited to hear two engagements announced. Sis. Marisa Stoller and Bro. Garrett Herrmann, (Princeville, IL) are planning an August 28 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy Stoller, (Morton, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene Herrmann, (Princeville, IL). July 17 is the date chosen by Sis. Julia Witzig and Bro. Matthew Stuber, (Tremont, IL) when they will become one in the Lord. Their parents are Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Witzig and Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne Stuber, (Tremont, IL). We wish these dear couples God’s blessings as they plan for their special day and life together.

March 7 Bro. William “Bill” Huette (Sis. Marilyn, dec. Tremont, IL) entered his home in Heaven. We extend our sympathy to his son Bro. Doug Huette (Sis. Jill) and their family who worship with us.

We thank the Bluffton North, IN congregation for hosting the Mid-Winter Conference. May our Elder Brothers be richly blessed for the time spent in shepherding their flocks.

As we hear of war and unrest around the world, we think of the message in the following hymn:

“In times like these you need a Saviour,
In times like these you need an anchor;
Be very sure, Be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!
In times like these you need the Bible,
Oh, be not idle;
Be very sure, Be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!
In times like these I have a Saviour,
In times like these, I have an anchor;
I'm very sure, I'm very sure,
My anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!
*This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One,
This Rock is Jesus— The only One;
Be very sure, Be very sure,
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!*
*In Times Like These, Gospel Hymns, #231*

**Illinois, Peoria**
**Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein**

We are seeing hints of spring which is so encouraging. Some warmer days, a few buds forming, and the melting snow mean God has allowed the cycle of life to continue.

We look to the word of God during these trying times of unrest in the world and are keeping the Ukrainians in our prayers, especially those who are trying to gather to worship the Father.

We thank Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Bloomington, IL) for presenting at Family Night about the opportunity to share the gospel through support of Afghan refugees. Many fled Afghanistan when the Taliban was taking over their country.

Our prayers are with Sis. Joan Reinhard as she recently lost her mother-in-law, Beverly Reinhard, and Bro. Willis and Sis. Gloria Hunziker as their son-in-law John Neall passed away suddenly.

Many thanks to the Bible Class and their parents for serving a special lunch recently as a fundraiser for their upcoming trips and activities.

We also want to remember those who are spreading the gospel around the world, including Bro. Jason and Sis. Geo Grassi and Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Bere Aupperle (Magdalena, MX) and Sis. Madi Waibel in India.

**Illinois, Princeville**
**Ruth Herrmann, Cherie White**

“All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings”
*C Creations, Hymns of Zion #207

Welcome Spring!
“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 hosted our bi-annual Invite-a-Guest and many churches were represented. It is always enjoyable to meet familiar and new brothers, sisters and youth who come to bless us for the day.

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

Bro. Garrett Herrmann, (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene) and Sis. Marisa Stoller, (Bro. Todd and Sis. Marcy, Morton, IL) announced their engagement. Dylan Knobloch, (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Marisa Dingledine, (Rick and Kathryn) announced their engagement. Sharing in this blessing of joy as these two couples make plans for a lifetime together.

“We are going down the valley one by one,
With our faces tow’rd the setting of the sun”.
*We Are Going Down The Valley, Heavenly Highway Hymns #236

Sis. Diane Knobloch (Bro. Marvin) once again said goodbye to a brother, Delano Grimm, (West Bend, IA).

“If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ”. I Peter 4:11

We appreciated the teachings of visiting Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL).

“Flourishing youth, Thou our hope and our fond expectation”* Tarry Not, Zion’s Harp #168

Our Bible Class invited a group from other of our churches for the weekend. There is a lot of planning and organization
put into this, but those of us who are older know the blessing of ongoing friendships beyond Sunday school days from meeting at these gatherings.

A group of our primary classes have been meeting on Wednesday evenings for a Scripture Memory Class. They recently presented a program to us by sharing through song what they have learned. A special thanks to teachers and parents who have a heart to give time in teaching our youth “...in the way they should go” Prov. 22:6.

Illinois, Roanoke

Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind

Our Roanoke church has been continuing our James Bible study. Bro. Sam Bertschi (Sis. Marjorie) led our study of James 3 on February 20. “If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” James 3:2. Bro. Sam exhorted us that our tongue isn’t really the problem. Our heart is the issue because our tongue reflects the attitudes and feelings in our heart. If there is evil in our heart it will be manifest in what we say. With the Holy Spirit’s help we need to bless and encourage others with our tongue. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph. 4:29.

Bro. Andy Kaufman (Sis. Marie, Bloomington, IL) continued with James 4:1-5:6 on February 27. Bro. Andy also reminded us that the problems of the world aren’t “out there” but rather stem from the thoughts and intents of our hearts. Jesus called us murderers and adulterers because of the desires that come from within. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jer. 17:9. Bro. Andy then encouraged us to “submit yourselves, resist the devil, draw nigh to God, cleanse your hands and purify your hearts, mourn and weep, humble yourselves, and speak not evil one of another” as James instructs. Bro. Andy also exhorted us to be conformed to the image of Jesus, our Savior.

On March 6, Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer) completed our study of James with chapter 5:6–20. Bro. Matt encouraged us that the faith that James talks about enables us to be patient in tribulation; keep strong and not yield to sin; have a heart that loves everyone without partiality; live righteously; say the right things at the right time; have wisdom and humility; trust in God and not in wealth; pray fervently; and to love even those who have sinned against us. We thank all these brothers for their timely and convicting messages. Our study helped the book of James “come alive” to us.

Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) presented a Bible study on the connection between baptism and church membership on March 13. Bro. Frank encouraged us to be lovingly committed to each other in the body of Christ so that unbelievers can witness what it is like to belong to a community of believers. “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35. Bro. Frank then gave a short summary of the recent Elder Conference held at Bluffton North, IN. We are so thankful for our Elder Body and their ongoing care and concern for us. May God bless each one.

Our Roanoke church was privileged to host the ACYF program on February 20 and 27. We enjoyed two wonderful evenings of listening to our youth present the gospel message in song. We thank them for their efforts.

Sis. Joy Hinrichsen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Andrew Walker (Stewart and Dawn, Rantoul, IL), were united in marriage on February 20 at the Champaign, IL, church. We wish them God’s rich blessings as they establish their marriage in the Lord.

Bro. Michael Stoller (Denver, CO) went to be with the Lord on February 22. His survivors are his dear parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni; his sister, Sis. Kristi Leman (Bro. Joel); his brothers, Bro. Jared (Sis. Rebekah) and Bro. David, all of Denver, CO; his grandmother, Sis. Barbara Stoller (Roanoke, IL); and five nieces and nephews. Bro. Michael was a blessing to his beloved
family and all of us. He grew up in Roanoke and joyfully showed unconditional love to all those he met. Bro. Michael’s cousin, Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie), had the funeral service. He read from Matthew 25, the parable of the talents. Bro. Michael used the talents that God entrusted to him to exhibit joy and contentment in difficult circumstances and to encourage others.

Joe Kupferschmid (Nancy, Punta Gorda, FL), passed away on March 5. He was a son of Sis. Jean Kupferschmid and a brother to Sis. Charlene Monk (Bro. Dan). We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and pray for our Lord’s comfort upon them.

Robert (Bob) Martin began his walk with the Lord and was baptized on February 23 at his home in rural Roanoke. His wife, Sis. Lois, passed away a few years ago. We are so thankful and rejoice with Bro. Bob, who even at an older age found grace from our Lord to surrender his life. We also pray for Bro. Bob as he is having some health issues.

On March 2, Margi Hodel gave her testimony and we welcomed her into our church family. In her testimony, Sis. Margi often mentioned a “God tap” when referring to the Holy Spirit’s working in her life, leading and directing her. We are so thankful and rejoice with Sis. Margi and her dear family.

March 5 was our annual Bible Class spaghetti supper. It is a joy to see our youth, their parents and teachers work together to help raise funds for our Sunday school and Bible Class programs.

Our annual pizza supper and Scripture Memory program were held on March 6. What a blessing that our youth are hiding God’s word in their hearts! We appreciate all the efforts put forth to assist our youth in committing Bible verses to memory.

Our annual Fellowship Hall cleaning was March 14. We thank all those who faithfully take care of the physical needs of our church and fellowship hall.

We continue to pray for Zachary Mangold (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer) and all those who are serving our country in the military, particularly those involved in the turmoil in Ukraine/Russia. We also pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. We ask the Lord to grant safety and protection and for a peaceful resolution in this conflict.

We also want to lift up those who are going through health challenges in prayer before God’s throne. They are: Sis. Wendy Blunier (Bro. Ray), Bro. Mark Braker (Sis. Michaleen), Sis. Pat Sauder, Lane Martin (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Jenny), Bro. Dave Schwind (Sis. Barb), Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Andy), and Sherry Maxwell, daughter of Sis. Faye Blunier (Bro. Wally). May God give healing according to his will, peace, and strength for whatever lies ahead. Our Lord is faithful!

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

Our prayers this month have been with Sis. Barbara Wagenbach as she was hospitalized. Stacey Larabée submitted to surgery, and we pray for healing for her.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jenny Koch were thrilled to welcome Perrin Robert into their family; Cecily, Emmy, Cadence, and Miriel are excited to have a baby brother! Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch are his grandparents. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marla Rose are first time grandparents as they welcomed River James Ehnle (Cameron and Shelby) into their family circle. Bro. Mark and Sis. Renée Kaiser are excited to welcome a grandson, Ari Tennison Pfederer (Travis and Morgan) to their family.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Victoria Baer welcomed Hosea Todd into their family; Leanna and Heinrich are his siblings, and Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner are his thankful grandparents.

A special thank you to Bro. Arlan Miller, Sis. Katie Miller, and Bro. Isaac Funk from ACCFS who spent a Saturday morning presenting “Building Intentional Relationships.” It was recorded and is on AC Central if you are interested in listening.

Peace, peace, wonderful peace! Saved by the blood of the Crucified One! For there is no night there! We said farewell to Bro. Bill Huette, rejoicing in the hope that we will be together again in Heaven. We extend our
love and prayers to his family, Susan Berchtold (Rick), Bro. David (Sis. Susan), Sis. Barb Kaeb (Bro. Dave), Sis. Ann Dill (Bro. Dave) all of Tremont, Bro. Doug (Sis. Jill, Morton, IL), and Greg (Sallie, Indianapolis, IN) and his two sisters, Sis. Rose Mary Frank and Sis. Marjorie Schaefer (Bro. Maurice), also of Tremont.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Matthew Stuber (Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne) as his engagement to Sis. Julia Witzig (Elder Bro. Ted Jr. and Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) was announced. We wish them much happiness as they look forward to being united as one in July.

**Indiana, Bluffton**

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

‘And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.” Ex. 14:13

We were blessed with several newborns this month. Bro. Troy, Sis. Alexa, Addalyn, Ensley, and Everleigh Fiechter welcomed Willow Grace on February 15. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter and Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly Baller. Little Calin Lee Tonner was born to Bro. Jason, Sis. Tannée, and Chance. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter and Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner. Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kaitlyn Reinhard (Bluffton North, IL) welcomed Nate David into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Kim Reinhard.

We are called to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Our sympathy and prayers go to those who are grieving. Our prayers are with Tami Hulvey as her husband Dave passed away. Sis. Shirley Fiechter was his mother-in-law. We are also prayerful for the family of Bro. Luther Gerber as he leaves behind his wife, Sis. Sharon, and children, Debra Pulver (Dennis), Gary, Tamara Myers (Dale), Jodi Costello (Daniel), Jamie Gregory (Aaron), and Jenny. Sympathy also goes to Sis. Ronda Grube (Bro. Jay) and Sis. Sherry Snodgrass (Walt) on the passing of their stepmother, Beverly Reinhard (Dan). Bro. Vernon Gerber also reached his eternal reward. His children are Sis. Becky Pfister (Bro. Al), Bro. Vince (Sis. Susan, Bluffton North, IN), and Sis. Rachel Isch (Bro. Jim).

Evan Eisenmann is now seeking the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. John and Sis. Trudy. Bro. Tony and Sis. Nicole Raber are rejoicing that their son Chase is also a convert.

Our homeschool students blessed many of us with a performance called “The Ultimate Deliverer”. It was a blessing to watch the story of Moses portrayed and to be pointed to Jesus as our Ultimate Deliverer today.

We appreciated a visit from Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH) who served us on the pulpit. They were with us for a weekend to support the Loving Shepherd Ministries (LSM) annual benefit auction. It was also a blessing to have many of our Elder’s wives join us for mid-week church services. They were in the area because Bluffton North hosted the Mid-Winter Elder Conference.

We congratulate Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi Carrico on the wedding of their daughter, Megan, to Tyler Bluhm (Dave and Lynette).
**Indiana, Bluffton North**  
*Deanna Brinneman, Rosemary Mounsey*

“For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him.” 1 Sam. 1:27

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kaitlyn Reinhard are rejoicing in the birth of their son, Nate David. Happy grandparents are Bro. Marv and Sis. Kim Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger. Nate’s great-grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Alan and Sis. Cheryl Ringger (Bluffton, IN). Nate also has a big sister, Belle, who is in heaven.

Bluffton North was privileged to host the Mid-Winter Conference held March 8-11. We appreciate the prayers, time, and effort that many church members put forth to help make the conference run smoothly.

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.” 1 Thess. 4:14

Bro. Vernon Gerber (Sis. Dorothy, dec.), 95, passed away at Christian Care Retirement Community on February 28. Survivors include daughters, Sis. Rebecca Pfister (Bro. Al, Bluffton, IN), Sis. Rachel Isch (Bro. Jim, Bluffton, IN), and son, Bro. Vincent (Sis. Susan), a brother, Tillman Gerber (Betty, Bluffton, IN) two sisters-in-law, Sis. Evelyn Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Julia Gerber, 13 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren (with 3 on the way), and 3 great-great-grandsons. On March 2, Bro. Alvin Fiechter (Sis. Bernice, dec.), 96, passed away, also at Christian Care. His son, Bro. Dean (Sis. Cyndee) and daughter, Sis. Kay Steffen (Bro. Keith), his brother, Bro. Wayne Fiechter (Sis. Dorothy, Bluffton, IN), his sister, Sis. Justine Gerber (Bluffton, IN), 6 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren survive. We will miss these two godly men very much, but are rejoicing in their victory!

Bro. Brian Brewster (Sis. Marcia) and Shawn Culp have both spent time in the hospital and appreciate the prayers of the church.

On March 5, our senior Sunday school students assembled over 1,200 pizzas as their fundraiser. They are spending their spring break working at Big Laurel Mission in Laurel, KY. Please pray for a safe trip, and that the Lord may be glorified through their labors.

Our annual 2nd-12th grade Sunday school party was held on March 6. The students look forward to this every year, especially the Bible story skits.

Finally, we continue to hold up our brethren in the Ukraine during this time of turmoil and uncertainty.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.” 2 Cor. 10:4

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**Indiana, Francesville**  
*Jacki Huber, Connie Linback*

Oh, what joy! The weather has warmed up, the windows are open, and the birds are chirping. This is one of the many gifts of God.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 5:16

As a church we are in the middle of four or five Wednesday evenings held at the Fellowship Center reviewing HarvestCall’s Strategic Plan and discussing how it applies to our local church. The topic this week is “Journey of Learning.”

Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman expressed thanks for the prayers for the Mid-Winter Conference held in Bluffton North, IN.

Thank you to all our ministers and wives for their faithful sharing of the Word and the help they offer throughout the years.

Laney Westfall has begun her walk with the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Tanya Westfall. Let us pray and encourage her in her journey.

We are thankful for Elyse Huber (Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam) as she has found peace with God and is planning to give her testimony of faith and be baptized in the near future.

Congratulations to Bro. Don and Sis. Deb Nuest as their daughter Hillary was recently married to Tyler Young. Tyler and Hillary are residing in Indianapolis.

Sunday, March 13 our church rejoiced at the wedding of Bro.
Elijah Waibel and Sis. Kenia Hernandez. Bro. Elijah is the son of Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra. Sis. Kenia is the daughter of Radie and Sonia Bailey of Medaryville, IN. May the Lord bless them with his presence throughout their lives.

We were blessed Sunday with visiting minister Bro. Jason Huber (Sis. Joy, Leo, IN) who presented the morning service.

A prayer request has been received from Bro. Mark Wuethrich (Sis. Lynne, Lafayette, IN) as he is facing heart surgery March 30.

Indiana, Indianapolis

Edie Bollier, Valerie Kipfer

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Heb. 4:14-16

In a recent sermon on Hebrews, we were challenged to consider what a blessing we have to boldly come to God’s throne because of Jesus. In studying the Old Testament and the role of the high priest it is quite a privilege to have access to God’s throne through Jesus our high priest and intercessor who sits at the right hand of God.

We are thankful that Rustin Schambach is repenting and starting his walk with the Lord. We have enjoyed having him attend our church.

Sis. Maria Steffen (Elgin, IL and Denver, CO) and Sis. Nanci Bahler (Remington, IN) have recently moved to Indianapolis for work and started attending our church. We welcome them and are thankful they are a part of our church family.

Our prayers continue for healing for Bro. Denny Meyer and Adrian Graham as they continue their treatments and deal with health challenges related to their illnesses. We have many opportunities to help serve these families.

Our church is thankful that Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa) was recently approved as Ordained Deacon to help shepherd our church. We are praying for them in their new role and responsibilities.

What a joy to trust the sovereign Lord in times of war and unrest in the world. We were reminded recently to bless the Lord and be thankful for his benefits and sovereign rule over all the world!

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:... The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.” Psa. 103:2, 19

Indiana, LaCrosse

Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.” Rev. 21:4-5

Our dear friend Rosaleah (Rosie) Moser passed away on February 21. Her absence will be felt by each of us, but most of all by her beloved husband Wayne and their 3 children, Donna Long (Roger), Stanley Moser, and Diane Osburn (Steve), along with 6 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Wayne and Rosie were married for 72 years, and their faith and sweetness have been a light to all who met them. We were truly blessed by their presence in our church!

Our prayers continue for Wayne and his family as they make the painful adjustment to life without their dear wife and mother.

We heartily thank Elder Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for serving us from the pulpit this past month.

Indiana, Leo

Leanne Fischer, Jan Beer

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

As spring arrives I often think of the book of Ecclesiastes and the “words of the Prophet”, and of the times and seasons each of us go through in this life. Times of joy. Times of heartbreak. However, through whatever life brings our
way, we can rejoice that God is all and in all and is using everything for good in our lives.

Sis. Carla Fritz (Bro. Jeff) shared with us on March 5, “My mom is safe in the arms of Jesus.” We join her, Bro. Jeff, and their children, Evan, Bro. Gavin and Sis. Moriah, in their grief over the loss of their wonderful mother and grandmother, Jan Bradtmueller. Jan had such a joyful and loving heart and often gathered with us to support her grandchildren during such events as Sunday school programs. She will be missed by her husband Otto, and all of her family and friends.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Klotzle rejoiced in the recent birth of their twins, Aria Grace and Hadassah Mae on March 11. They expressed praise to God for the babies health, and asked for continued prayer for Heather’s recovery. Aria and Hadassah join siblings, Stella and Jeremiah in their special family unit ordained and blessed by God in the beginning.

Joining our recent converts is Chelby Plattner, daughter of Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner. We are thankful for each soul making the choice to follow Jesus, and thrill to each soul that joins us in the desire to walk in the light.

We are continuing to meet in the Fellowship Hall for worship services as our church is remodeled. How thankful we are for that space as we continue to worship together.

**Indiana, Milford**  
**Alyssa Beer, Anne Wilson**

The warmer weather and sunny days of late have brought glimpses of Spring. It’s refreshing to the soul. Just like the old dark days of winter change to the sun-filled days of spring, he reminds us that “…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.

We were blessed this past month to have two visiting ministers. Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi) and Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria) both of the Eureka, IL shared the day. Our thoughts and prayers have been with our friend Danny Whybrew and Bro. Tom Price (Becky) as they both recover from some recent health setbacks. May you all be blessed in this coming Easter season!

**Indiana, Remington**  
**Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler**

We had many visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), and Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH). We are thankful for each one’s efforts and were blessed by each one’s desire to preach the truth in love!

We are thankful to be able to welcome two new brothers and a new sister this month! Bro. Thad Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette), Bro. Evan Getz (Matt and Heidi), and Sis. Ellie Scheitlin (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amanda) each shared their testimony of how God has worked in their lives and vowed to serve him alone in the covenant of baptism. We pray that God will continue to guide and direct them as they seek to live for him.

We have even more cause to rejoice as we have a new convert this month! Rustin Schambach (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah) has acknowledged his need for a savior and sought the Lord in repentance. We pray that Rustin will feel the love and prayers of the church as he turns his life towards Jesus.

Just this evening we heard our Bro. Rex Clauss (Sis. Tammy) testify to how the Lord has worked a miracle in his life and his heart (literally!) through the power of a praying church. We are humbled to be allowed to be a part of Bro. Rex’s amazing story of the Lord’s faithfulness and are thankful he was brave enough to share it with the church.

Bro. Joel Putt (Sis. Wendy) recently had surgery and is recovering well. We pray that God will continue to heal him and help him regain his mobility quickly.

Our Cheer Circle held their annual auction this month and once again raised quite a bit of money to bring comfort to those who are suffering. Many thanks to all who participated and supported this ministry of love!
Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” Rev. 21:6-7

We extend our love and condolences to Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (Bro. Marty), whose oldest brother, James Zaugg (Barb, Pleasant Hill, IA) went home to his eternal reward.

We have been going through the Sharing the Gospel Bible study as a church on Wednesday evenings. It has increased our appreciation of the gospel and each other!

On March 6, our Sunday school students enjoyed time together bowling and at Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm’s Headsight building. On March 18, our Young Group gathered for a Bible Study on Colossians.

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

Indiana, West Lafayette
Abbie Gramm

West Lafayette has recently moved to a new model of shared leadership. This month, a revised stewardship team was launched at our annual business meeting. Additional roles have been added with the intent to more accurately and adequately represent the whole church and each of the sub-ministries. We have been encouraged to see the excitement and momentum around these shifts. Another notable change has been the ordination of Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri) as church deacon. We have been prayerful for him and his family.

Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Keyna, South Bend, IN) visited to share the Word. The Purdue Young Group also hosted an invite with fellow students from Illinois State University.

Prayers appreciated for Sis. Diana Norman and Nadine Tucker regarding some recent health concerns.

Indiana, Wolcott
Brittany Gerber, Luann Gerber

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kim Schleman are new parents of precious little Paige Harper. Her big siblings are Samuel, Addison, and Bree. Local grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer.

We were thankful that Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) were able to visit and serve our congregation this past month.

We rejoice with Erica Reinhard (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice) as she was announced for peace.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Kendra Wettstein

We were thankful to have had several visiting ministers this month. Sharing God’s word this month were Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). Some were with us for our all church Invite-a-Guest weekend.

Our prayers were with Sis. Shirley Wuthrich with her recent surgery. Also in our prayers was Aaron Helton (Nic and Amy Wiley) as he was hospitalized, and we are thankful he is home and now on the mend.

We are thankful when souls answer the call to repentance and are rejoicing with Cambria Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) as she begins this most important step in life.

As we look forward with anticipation to Easter and the renewal that comes with the season, may we always remember the price that was paid at the cross on Calvary.

Iowa, Burlington
Elaine Eisenmann, Angela Steiner

It feels like spring is finally here! As I write this, we are enjoying much warmer weather and longer light-filled days here on earth.

Our dear Sis. Elva Gerst (Bro. Paul, dec. Mediapolis, IA) is surely enjoying Heaven’s eternal light, as she left this earth the morning of February 28, just a few weeks before her 102nd birthday! She was the special mother of Bro. Bill Gerst (Sis.
Judy) and grandmother of Sis. Karla Gerst of our church family. Many of us knew this kind and gentle sister all our lives and we will all miss her!

On March 12-13 we enjoyed several visitors here for Invite-A-Guest weekend. We were thankful to have two visiting ministers and their families among our guests: Bro. Isaac Wolford (Sis. Rachel, Washington IL) and Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford IL). We welcome all our guests back any time!

On March 5, a wedding reception was held for Tom and Emily Eisenmann, son and daughter-in-law of Sis. Elaine Eisenmann (Bro. Paul, dec). We wish them a happy future together!

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

“I now have found the firm foundation
Where evermore my anchor grounds!
It lay there ere the world’s creation,
Where else but in my Saviour’s wounds?”
Foundation which unmov’d shall stay,
When earth and heaven pass away.
Christ, The Foundation,
Zion’s Harp, # 221

We rejoice with Eli Rocke (Bro. Doug and Sis. Trisha) as he has answered the Lord’s call in repentance. We wish him God’s grace as he seeks to build a sure foundation of faith upon Jesus.

Our church family is thankful to welcome in two dear souls: Bro. Levi Getz (Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty) and Sis. Sidney McQuade. May God continue to bless and provide for them in their walk with him. Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) were here to conduct the testimonies and baptisms. Also here to support them were ministers Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). May God bless each one for their labors.

The same weekend, Bro. Dean Rocke (Sis. Maria) was placed in the ministry here. We appreciate the prayers, love and support we’ve felt. May God’s name be glorified through the weakness of man.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

We thank and appreciate visiting ministers Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and the loved ones that traveled with them. When the Lord speaks in a still small voice are we quiet enough to hear that voice. Are our ears filled with Tik-Tok, Spotify or a football game?

"Be silent, be silent,
A whisper is heard;
Be silent, and listen,
O treasure each word!"
Tread Softly, Hymns of Zion #137

We are thankful for another convert, Mathew Lester, son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Sara Lester. Mathew has found employment close to Indianapolis and attends church there. Praising the Lord for his tender mercies!

A new roof covers the Lord’s house in Garden Grove. This project was completed in two short days. Thankful for local contractors.

A tornado touched down on the south side of Garden Grove. Damage was minimal to the local congregation, but several neighbors had damage. Some of you may remember Sis. Dorothy Neal who attended church here. Her residence is 1.5 miles from the church. The roof of her home was completely demolished. We are thankful she was in her Heavenly Home as the people that lived there barely made it to the safety of the basement. Dorothy was elderly and would not have been able to descend the basement steps. She was “Safe in the Arms of Jesus”.

Iowa, Iowa City

Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Bryon Palitto (Akron, OH), and Bro. Darren
We trust the Lord will bless each brother for visiting and sharing the Word with us.

We were saddened, yet rejoiced, at the news that Bro. Joe Gerst’s (Sis. Connie) mother, Sis. Elva Gerst (Mediapolis, IA), won the victory. Our prayers are with Joe and Connie, their children, and their grandchildren.

Iowa, Lester
Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

Our hearts and minds are with those in unsettled areas in this world or in the midst of unsettled times in their lives.

“For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Rev. 7:17

May we always look to God and know that it is He who guides, provides, and directs our lives.

Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome) was hospitalized receiving help with her ongoing battle with cancer.

Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth) both from Kansas City, MO were here together one weekend. Another weekend, Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) shared God’s word with us. We were blessed by their willingness to minister to us. We are thankful to those who traveled to be with us for our Invite-a-Guest weekend March 19-20.

Bro. Nash and Sis. Tarah Knobloch welcomed their first child, Piper Lynae on Sunday March 6. She is loved and welcomed by grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean Knobloch and Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda Meyer.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Donna Mogler (Bro. Dwight) and family on the passing of their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Lavina Ballasy (Rockville CT).

“For farewell in God, Farewell! We’ll meet again! In love to each we tell, We’ll meet again! We’ll meet again up there, To rest from toil and care, Where we forevermore Shall meet again!”

The Parting Hour Has Come, Hymns of Zion, #274

Sis. Kara Blomgren (Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia) will be spending several weeks in Papua New Guinea.

Iowa, Mediapolis
Laura Kuntz, Kyrstin Wagenbach

“As citizens of Christ’s kingdom, we detach from the kingdoms of this world, resisting their pull toward destruction.” This quote from the Fall Memorandum caught my attention. It made me ponder, am I acting as though I truly am a part of Christ’s kingdom, or is my heart/allegiance divided? Jesus said that we cannot serve two masters. It was a good reminder to examine my heart each day to see who I am serving. We are thankful that our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall had help from our local ordained deacons, Bro. Dave Lanz and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) with the reading of the Memorandum.

We extend our sympathy to the family of our dear Sis. Elva Gerst, who passed away this month. She spent many of her 101 years in the service of the Lord, and we are thankful for her sweet example. We continue to lift up her sons, Bro. Bill (Sis. Judy, Burlington, IA), Bro. Joe (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Walt (Sis. Nola), Bro. Charles (Sis. Charlene) and their families in our prayers.

Sis. Ada Banwart’s sister, Alma Langland (Iowa City, IA) passed away this month, and we share our love, prayers and sympathy with Sis. Ada as well.

We neglected to extend sympathy last month to our Bro. Kyle Knapp (Sis. Kelli) at the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Nancy Knapp (Bro. Jerry, Congerville, IL).

We enjoyed many visitors this past month, including ministering Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL). May God bless both of these brothers for their willingness to be used to preach the Word.

Bro. Caleb, Sis. Abby and Walker Larson welcomed sweet baby Kase Richard into their family this month. Also thankful for his safe arrival are
grandparents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosie Larson and Doug and Beth Rinkenberger (Fairbury, IL).

Many in our congregation were able to travel to Louisiana this month to help with the HarvestCall project. We are thankful that they had a safe trip and pray that many were able to see Jesus shining through their lives and actions.

It seems that we as humans have trouble appreciating the blessings that we have until we don’t have them anymore. After two years without, we were once again able to host our annual Invite-A-Guest weekend this month, and what a blessing it was! Many thanks to all our guests that traveled the miles to be with us!

Our hearts are saddened when we think of the many people in Ukraine and surrounding areas who are experiencing such hardship and heartache at this time. We lift them up in prayer to our Father in heaven.

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills shall be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.” Isa. 54:10

Iowa, West Bend

Erica Knobloch, Karen Schmidt

We were inspired and encouraged by our visiting ministers, Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO).

Our love and sympathy go to Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer Fehr in the loss of their infant granddaughter, Veda James Fehr (Jack and Lauren). Grieving the loss of their brother Delano Grimm are Arlo and Marilyn Grimm, Bro. Eli and Sis. Margaret Grimm and Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr. Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly and Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zaugg are also grieving the loss of their brother Jim Zaugg (Barb).

We are thankful that Bro. David Gerber, Sis. Lezlee Leman, and Sis. Erica Knobloch have been able to return home after spending time in the hospital. May the Great Physician grant healing according to his will.

Japan, Shioda & Tokyo

Anna Inoue, Rachel Witzig

As the weather warms up and flowers bud, Japan becomes even more beautiful. We are thankful we could gather for the second Ladies’ English Bible study at the Tokyo church. Sisters in Christ and English students’ mothers have the opportunity to learn about the Bible in this once-a-month basic Bible study.

Sunday school continues to be just our regular church attendees. We look forward to when the restrictions lift, and we can resume our normal worship services, lunch, and Sunday school opens to all English students.

As we anticipate Easter, we look forward to celebrating our risen Lord and Savior Jesus.

Kansas, Bern

Leigha Rokey, Rita Menold

Greetings from the Midwest! Spring is knocking on the door, and at the time of this writing we are enjoying some beautiful weather!

Bro. Hans and Sis. Rachel Strahm welcomed another bundle of pink to their family circle. Little Clara Rose joined big sisters Grace, Ruth, and Lettie. Happy grandparents are Kyle and Peggy Strahm, and Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman (Sabetha, KS)

We rejoice with Sis. Kristin Rokey and Bro. Matthew Meyer (Sabetha, KS), as God has led their lives to become one! Thankful parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey, and Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen Meyer.

If your summer travels bring you through the Midwest, our doors are certainly open for visitors! We would love to have you join us for a weekend or Sunday of worship! Wishing each of you God’s peace, love and grace!

Kansas, Kiowa

Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

“But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every
living thing, and the breath of all mankind.” Job 12:7-10

We have had a pair of geese that have been coming to our farm pond once a year for the past several years to have a family of baby goslings (always 4). It has been a joy to watch. The mother builds her nest on a small island (Jeff built a small and a large so animals could flee from predators). She chose the small one, and there builds her nest every year. When we go to the pond to fish or relax, she lays her head down so we can barely see her. Her mate just patiently swims around on the pond or walks the shore to distract predators. She leaves the nest to join him at times, but is on that nest most of the 25 to 30 days it takes for the goslings to hatch. The interesting thing is; when they hatch, the Dad and Mom walk them around the pond; lets them swim, play in and out of the water, and when they rest, the Mom covers them with her wings while the Dad never sits down. He stands guard over his family the entire time. Then about 5 hours later, they lead those tiny babies on foot up a hill about a mile away to a different pond. They must feel it is a safer place to raise the babies. Last year it was right through the middle of a wheat field. Harder for the hawks and birds of prey to get them I guess. I could barely see the parents heads over the top of the wheat. I am always sad I don’t get to see them grow up, but marvel at the way God leads, cares, protects, loves and guides them. If he does these things for birds, beasts, fish and all animals, how much more will he lead, care, guide, love and protect us if we just trust him with our lives every day. Psa. 34:7 says, “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Thank you, our precious Lord, God and Holy Spirit, for loving us so much!!!

We had our Annual Meeting this past month and wish to thank all who give of their time to do the work of the church for the glory of the Lord, whatever that work may be. It takes everyone to keep the church together, and show honor for our God. God Bless each one for their efforts.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) who joined us for Communion, Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), and Bro. Clint Dotterer (Sis. Rebecca, Denver, CO). We were very blessed by their willingness to serve.

We were recently challenged from our pulpit to consider that, “When we’re new believers, we struggle with the sins of unrighteousness. As we get older, we tend to struggle more with the sin of self-righteousness.” May we keep looking to Jesus for our righteousness and humbly ask for his help to love him and others.

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

It has been a full month for our church! Communion was a blessing for us to partake in and to remember our Savior’s sacrifice on our behalf. Parents and those who work with children were thankful for the opportunity to attend a Parenting Seminar put on by ACCFS. We all learned a lot and are encouraged to continue investing in our precious young people. We also hosted an Invite-a-Guest weekend and enjoyed several visitors and fellowship together.

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Kansas, Sabetha

Miranda Grimm, Leanna Hartter

Greetings of love to each one!

We are thankful and prayerful for converts Logan Metzger
(Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla) and Tyler Grimm (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah) as they express they are at peace with God and man and as they prepare for baptism in the weeks ahead.

We rejoice with Darin and Sis. Karen Edelman as they welcome another grand-daughter into their hearts, Clara Rose (Bro. Hans and Sis. Rachel Strahm).

We also rejoice with Bro. Matthew Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen) and Sis. Kristin Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila, Bern, KS) as their engagement was made know to the church. We extend our prayers to them as they plan their life together and we look forward to welcoming Sis. Kristin to our Sabetha congregation.

It was a blessing to have several visitors with us for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) shared with us from God’s Word Sunday. We appreciate their labors of love and each one that made an effort to come.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” James 3:17

Kansas, Wichita
Niklaus and Sara Schrader

We were grateful to have had the opportunity to be with Sis. Ann Warner on Sunday, February 20 to sing and go to dinner with her. Sis. Ann wanted her love and greetings to be shared with all.

Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen and family, Lester, IA) were with us on February 20 for minister rotation. We are thankful for the visiting ministers who take time to help share the Word to our small congregation.

Our most recent bolstering meeting was the weekend of March 5-6. Please be prayerful regarding these meetings as we continue looking to the future of our local body.

We are prayerful and excited for the Young Group event which will be March 25-27. We are looking forward to meeting new believers and seeing all that plan to attend.

Please be prayerful for Sis. Gail Grimm who has been hospitalized recently.

Bro. Roger Reimschisel passed on to Glory on March 15. He will be greatly missed by the entirety of our church body and those who knew and loved him. Throughout his life, he has served our church and the Lord as a song leader and morning coffee maker as well as many other various helpful jobs. We will miss him but look forward to seeing him in Heaven with our Savior. Prayers for his wife Bertie and his family would be greatly appreciated.

“My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.” Ps. 73:26

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28

We have a faithful Shepherd and can be secure in his care!

We are thankful to share that Sis. Mely Garcia is recovering after some health complications. It was a blessing to have her, her children, and grandchildren for a Sunday service after the time of absence.

Another encouraging visit was that of the School Board as they came to Ixtlan for their biannual meetings this past month. They visited some of the middle school classes and were able to share testimonies with the young people. They also had meetings with the teachers and some of the parents. We pray that the school would always be a place where the Shepherd’s voice can be heard and that many more young people and families will come to follow Jesus.

We were saddened to hear of Carlos Lopez’s death. He was a brother to Sis. Veronica (Bro. Javier Torres). He leaves behind his wife (Virginia) and three children (Marisol, Charly, and Gaby).

Our brothers and sisters in Barra Vieja have also been through various challenges in the past months. Please pray for Sis. Kike who will be needing surgery, and Bro. Pablo who has
undergone cancer treatments. We are burdened for their health as well as with the need for a local minister. May the Lord provide in his own way!

**Mexico, Magdalena**

*Laura Aviña*

After much prayer and discussion, our church voted to begin congregating again in La Misión (our location prior to COVID-19). We are thankful for God’s direction and for the participation of our congregation in this decision. Our prayer and desire is to return to a location in the city of Magdalena sometime in the future. Thank you for your prayers!

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.” 1 Cor. 12:18

Throughout this process, it has been a blessing to see each member doing their part; preaching, teaching, organizing, coordinating repairs and physical needs, communicating, reaching out to new attendees, and giving of their time, talents, and other resources in so many ways. May we always be thankful for one another!

**Michigan, Detroit**

*Krista Wieland*

We rejoice with Bro. Caleb and Sis. Autumn Ramseyer in the birth of their first child, Rosie Elizabeth on February 25. She is named after her great-grandma Sis. Dorothy “Rose” Ramseyer and great-grandma Sis. Doris “Elizabeth” Gasser. Loving grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser and Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer.

Our love and sympathy go out to several in our church family who have lost loved ones this past month: Sis. Melinda Lanski’s (Todd) father Bro. Dave Irelly (Mansfield, OH) and Denise Williams’ (Paxton) grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH). We are thankful for the Holy Spirit to comfort them in this time of loss.

Our prayers went with Elder Bro. Lucas Frank and retired Elder Bro. Mark Bahr during their time at the Mid-Winter Conference in Bluffton North, IN. Bro. Lucas conveyed to us that the love and prayers from all congregations was very evident in the meetings and discussions. We are thankful to the Lord for his continued guidance over our church.

With many of the pandemic restrictions lifted, we have been meeting at Woodpointe, the independent living apartments near church for Wednesday night services. We appreciate the residents welcoming us there and participating with us in the singing and service.

Our prayers go out to the war-torn Ukraine area and all of the people impacted. In this time of uncertainty, we hold fast to God’s promises and rest in knowing that this world is only a temporary landing spot and not our permanent home.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Renee Messner*

“For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth…” Song of Sol 2:11-12

In the midst of uncertain times, we are thankful to our loving Father for his change of seasons. The brown earth coming alive with shades of green is a beautiful sight!

We mercifully celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and God’s precious plan of salvation! We pray you all feel his blessings as you gather with your loved ones to praise him on Easter!

Please keep Bob Schmidgall in your prayers, as he recovers from surgery.

We are praying for Bro. Ben Moser, as his mother, Sis. Norene Moser passed away last month in Morris, MN. She was also an aunt to our dear Sis. Diane Stewart (Bro. David).

Recently I was helping my dad look through boxes, and we found a collection of papers from past retreats they attended. This invitation was enclosed:

*The Father requests the honour of your presence at the marriage of His Son Jesus Christ, to be held in heaven. Only those will be admitted who come clothed in the wedding garment provided by the Father. I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.*

His holy word says, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved! Accept the invitation while the door is still open.

Minnesota, Morris
Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf

“And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:40

Sis. Noreen Moser (Bro. Carl) passed away on February 21. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Bro. Carl and his family during this difficult time. May the family be blessed and comforted by the love of our Lord Jesus.

Invite-a-Guest was fully enjoyed the weekend of March 5-6. Visiting ministers who shared the Word were Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN).

“Our hearts are thankful for all who were able to join the Morris church in fellowship and singing. "Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices!"
All Come and Thank the Lord, Zion’s Harp #236

Joyfully, we celebrate with friends Troy and Crystal Madsen and the blessing of their infant daughter, Lydia Hope. To God be the glory for her safe journey into their hearts and home in North Carolina. Lydia is welcomed and sure to be loved by her siblings Ava, Cora, James, Liza and Evelyn. Congratulations and blessings to all.

Thank you, Bro. Seth Leman (Sis. Renee, Sabetha, KS) for worshipping with us on Sunday, March 13 The Lord blesses our church abundantly through the willingness of visiting ministers to be used on his behalf.

The Elder Brothers and their wives attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Bluffton North, IN this month. The Spirit is stirred in their hearts through readings, discussion, speakers, and song. Pray with confidence that the Lord will bless their labors from the pulpit when they return home.

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Peter 4:10

Minnesota, Morris North

Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

On February 25 we held the funeral of Sis. Norene Moser (Bro. Carl). Our ministering brothers conducted the service and Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) was also in attendance. Sis. Norene was one of the original members from the founding of our Morris North congregation and she will be missed.

On March 5 we had a bridal shower for Haley Mattson, (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori). Haley is marrying Tristan Edelman (Sabetha, KS), and will be living in Sabetha after their wedding, which is planned for this summer.

Lastly, we were able to go skiing with our Sunday school kids. It’s one of our oldest Sunday school activity traditions. Fun fact, approximately 40% of our average Sunday attendance are Sunday school children and we are thankful for the opportunity to spend time with the children more than just weekly for one hour in the classroom.

Minnesota, Winthrop
Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner

Looking outside we see beautiful sunshine, no wind and expecting temperatures in the 50s for a few days. It feels and looks like spring is on the way!

We are all rejoicing with our convert, Quintin Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie), as he is at peace with God and man and awaiting baptism in the near future.

Our prayers are with Sis. Julie Schmidt (Bro. Nick) as she has started treatments for her cancer. Thankfully, she has not had many side effects yet.

We also continue to pray for Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) as she continues onward with her Sjogren’s disease.

Sis. Dixie Messner also had eye surgery last week. She is thankful to be doing well and on the road to recovery.

Missouri, Kansas City
Betty Sinn

Greetings of love from Kansas City!

As we look forward to spring and warmer weather, let us be reminded of God’s righteousness.
“For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.” Isa. 61:11

We express our thanks to Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH) for ministering to us recently. Bro. Sam began the afternoon service with the following, timely message to us: “We gather together again around the word of God for the express purpose of nurturing faith and dedication to the Lord. As we sought to be prayerful this past week for our Elder Brothers as they gathered in conference, the thought occurred to me that we as our congregations can take on the role of Hannah, who sought to dedicate one of her own offspring to the Lord’s service. So, if we put Kansas City in the place of Hannah, you have chosen to dedicate one of your own, Bro. Randy, to the service of the Lord. And Hannah was faithful in supporting her son Samuel and being there. And for us at Junction, we have the privilege of supporting our Bro. Tony in that work and I just feel moved to encourage us within our individual congregations to fulfill that Hannah role. And really, she sought to visit and encourage and really be present with her support, because that work in the service of the Lord was so important.

In that vein, let’s redouble our efforts to be prayerful for our watchmen on the walls of Zion. That task, without the Lord’s steadying hand, is monumental and overwhelming, but through the power of grace and the wisdom that is from above and the vision that says the Lord’s strengthening hand through Aaron and her to hold up those arms, it can continue, and the church can carry on in faith. But, that involves us, so don’t lose track of our privilege in supporting that work as Hannah, as Aaron, as her, that the walls can be fortified and we can be dedicated anew to participate in that body of Christ that watches for danger and embraces God’s way of hope. So, let’s purpose this afternoon to dedicate this service to nurturing faith and dedication to the Lord.”

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“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb. 12:1-2

Missouri, Lamar

Leah Rokey

With the arrival of spring comes the reminder of the new life we can find in Christ. What a wonderful blessing to be wiped clean of our sins and be forgiven by our Savior!

We appreciate the willingness of ministering brothers on our behalf, including Bro. Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Seth Hartter (Burlington, IA).

We were blessed to have a large group from LaCrosse and Francesville worship with us. It is encouraging to fellowship together!

We praise God for the quick recovery of Bro. Alfred Banwart (Sis. Carolyn), as he spent time in the hospital this month with pneumonia.

Missouri, Taylor

Tami Pflum, Kristen Wegman

At a time when there is so much heartache and hurt in our world, we can almost feel guilty for the many ways our Lord continues to pour out his goodness and mercy in our lives. Yet he calls us to give thanks in all things, so we would be amiss if we didn’t take the time to praise him for the many ways he has blessed us this month.

As a church family we had reason to rejoice as Bro. Travis Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg) and Sis. Amy Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue, Bern, KS) were united as one on February 20.

We delighted in the continued growth of our congregation as Bro. Cooper and Sis. Shania Sutter became first time parents with the birth of precious little Brooker Dale on February 21. Grateful
grandparents are Tom and Sis. Jolene Young and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dianne Sutter.
We were blessed by several visiting ministers, along with their supportive wives. Heartfelt thanks to Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL), Bro. Mark Lindberg (Sis. Laura, Chicago, IL), Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) for sharing the gospel from our pulpit.

We also greatly appreciated the instruction of Bro. Arlan Miller and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) as they shared an ACCFS presentation, Dealing with Hurt and Moving Towards Healing on February 26.

We were encouraged to see the enthusiasm and love for Jesus during a Young Group Invite-a-Guest on March 6.

We continued to be edified by our local ministers as they have been teaching through the life of Elijah and Elisha during our afternoon services.

We were challenged at a special prayer and song service on March 2 for all those who are suffering in the Ukraine/Russia war. It is difficult for us to imagine the fear, dread, and loss so many are currently experiencing. May we faithfully intercede for those who are being forced to flee, others who are being forced to fight, as well as a change of heart for any whose hearts hunger for war. Most of all, may we be fervent in prayer that all men everywhere would come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior before their lives are taken or Christ comes to call his children home.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg

Anna Stoller

“Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That sav’d a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.
Thro’ many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath bro’t me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home
Amazing Grace, Hymns of Zion, #97.

This hymn was sung at the funeral of Sis. Jane (Polly) Farney, who passed away February 28. It struck me how appropriate the words were as we sang. Each of us can be thankful for God’s daily grace and rejoice when our loved ones reach their heavenly goal. May we all reach that good and blessed end by his grace. Sis. Polly leaves behind Bro. Duane (Sis. Karen), Niles (Barbara), Bro. John, and Thomas (Holly), and many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) was able to come for the funeral and we appreciate him serving us.

Our congregation lost another sister when Sis. Rita Petzoldt passed away March 4. Her children are Debra Church, Bruce (Patricia), Wendy Lehman (Andrew) and Patti Widrick (Randy). Her siblings are Arlene Grau, Sis. Regina Herzig, Bro. Ted Virkler (Sis. Mac), Norma Zehr (Melvin), Nathaniel Virkler (Sheila), and Kendal Virkler (Marlene). May God be with all who are grieving loved ones and grant his nearness and comfort.

Our prayers were with the elder brethren as they recently attended the Mid-Winter Conference. May he bless his servants and may we continue to remember them in prayer. We appreciated Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Clarendon, VT) as he recently shared the Word with us.

Note of Thanks:
The family of Sis. Polly Farney expresses their heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, and expressions of love that were shared to us in her sickness and in her passing. May God bless each one for your thoughtfulness and kindness that was shown to our family in any way.

Ohio, Akron
Abigail Schar, Lindsay Graf

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Barb Graf (Elder Bro. Dave) and Bro. Glen Greenbank (Sis. Joan) as they recently had surgery and spent time in the hospital. May God continue to heal and strengthen all according to his will.
Bro. Aaron and Sis. Heidi Indermuhle are thankful for the safe arrival of sweet Nadia Maria on March 9. May their home be filled with love and joy. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle and Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal.

We are so thankful to have a new convert, as Danyel Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal) has recently begun her repentance.

Ohio, Columbus

Julia Grimm

We are thankful for the following visiting brothers who shared the Word with us this month: Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH), Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH), Bro. Bob Riggenbach, (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL).

Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth brought a group of couples from Congerville on their rotation. We enjoyed an evening of fellowship, food, and singing with our visitors. We will cherish the friendships and memories that were made over the weekend.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill Sauder (Sis. Becky) and Sis. Julie Grimm (Bro. John) in the loss of their father, retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

Bro. Tim McMillan was appointed as the Gateway Wood Representative. We are thankful for all who are willing to serve in our small church.

Ohio, Junction

Karen Schlatter

Our sympathy to Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis. Elizabeth) on the passing of his stepmother, Beverly Staker Reinhard. She visited only a few times in her marriage to Bro. Doug’s dad, but she was such an inspiration to meet.

Many thanks to our visiting ministers in the past month. We appreciate the messages from Bro. Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), Bro. Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH), and Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH).

We are thankful Sis. Verginia Manz is home again after having knee replacement surgery. We are praying for a speedy recovery and hope she is soon able to worship with us again.

We rejoice with Bro. Roger and Sis. Susan Gasser as their daughter Jenna was able to give her testimony of faith and be baptized the weekend of March 19-20. Many were able to attend the special weekend held at our Akron, OH church where she has been attending.

As a volunteer EMT for the past 27 years, this poem really made me stop and think as I read it and thought of the message it is trying to portray. There is so much wisdom behind it. We are better off trying to avoid sin and evil than figure out how to pick up the pieces afterwards.

"Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed, Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant; But over its terrible edge there had slipped; A duke and full many a peasant; So the people said something would have to be done, But their projects did not all tally; Some said, "Put a fence around the edge of the cliff," Some, “An ambulance down in the valley,” But the cry for the ambulance carried the day, For it spread through the neighboring city; A fence may be useful or not, it is true, But each heart became brimful of pity For those who slipped over that dangerous cliff; And the dwellers in highway and alley Gave pounds or gave pence, not to put up a fence, But an ambulance down in the valley. “For the cliff is all right, if you're careful,” they said, “And, if folks even slip and are dropping, It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much, As the shock down below when they're stopping.” So day after day, as these mishaps occurred, Quick forth would these rescuers sally To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
With their ambulance down in the valley.
Then an old sage remarked:
“It’s a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing the results than to stopping the cause,
When they’d much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief,” cried he.
“Come, neighbors and friends let us rally:
If the cliff we will fence we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley.”
“Oh, he’s a fanatic,” the others rejoined,
“Dispense with the ambulance? Never!
He’d dispense with all charities, too, if he could;
No! No! We’ll support them forever.
Aren’t we picking up folks just as fast as they fall?
And shall he dictate to us? Shall he?
Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence;
While the ambulance works in the valley?”
But a sensible few, who are practical, too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their cause will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them then, with your purse, voice, and pen.

And while other philanthropists daily,
We will scorn all pretense and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.
Better guide well the young than reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling,
“To rescue the fallen is good, but ‘tis best
To prevent other people from falling.”
Better close up the source of temptation and crime,
Than deliver from dungeon and galley—
Better put up a strong fence ‘round the top of the cliff
Than an ambulance down in the valley.”
“A Fence or an Ambulance” by John Malins

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

“Hide me, oh my Saviour, hide me
Till the storms of life are past!
Safe into the haven guide me,
O receive my soul at last!”

We bid an earthly farewell to loved ones who served the Lord with their whole hearts as God directed them. We are prayerful for the family of Bro. Dave Eyerly in his passing, especially his wife, Sis. Edna, and children: Sis. Melinda Lanski (Bro. Todd), Sis. Melani, David (Angela), Daniel (Lolita), and Angela Goldsmith. Countless many were blessed by Bro. Dave’s love and dedication to the Lord as he served in many ways. May precious memories be a comfort.

We are also touched by the passing of retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder, and we pray for his family including his children: Bro. Bill (Sis. Becky, Columbus, OH), Bro. Dan (Sis. Pam), Steve (Lori), Bro. Dave (Sis. Joy), Scott (Julie, Lucas, OH), Mark (JoAnn, Lucas, OH), Sis. Julie Grimm (Bro. John, Columbus, OH), and Sam (Angel, Shelby, OH). Bro. Ken, along with his wife, the late Sis. Sue, faithfully served in the
ministry and eldership for almost 40 years. Beyond that, Bro. Ken leaves a godly influence in many lives. We appreciate Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) for a message of encouragement during the funeral service.

May God give increased strength to those who, upon the death of well-worn pilgrims, now carry the mantle of faith.

We’re grateful for Laurence and Erica Boor as they both begin a repentance. We pray each one experiences his loving mercies! Don’t we all need this constant reminder that through our humbleness before God and each other, we are able to receive much needed grace.

It was a beautiful weekend when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Ryan Domka (Sis. Connie and the late Bro. Fred). It is so inspiring to reflect on how God works. That same weekend we heard the testimonies of Tony and Katie Vogel. We welcome them as a brother and sister. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Tom Hill (Sis. Elaine, Rittman, OH) for their labors of love on the pulpit.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Joy Sauder welcome a new granddaughter, Mia Felicity, who was born to Ben and Molly Sauder and sister Ari. This precious baby continues to require care in the hospital; let us lift this family up in prayer.

During our annual HarvestCall days, soup was packaged, quilts were knotted, and kit bags were sewn and filled with items. What a blessing it is to work together! May the recipients feel our care, while most importantly the love of God.

The HarvestCall Eastern European Board met locally. It was a timely update on the needs of Eastern Europe. May our hearts be open to the situations of others. It was an added privilege to have Bro. Joel Putt (Sis. Wendy, Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) stay for the weekend and preach that Sunday. Thank you, brothers.

“As I have no other refuge, 
Turns my helpless soul to Thee; 
Leave me not, nor yet forsake me, 
Still support and comfort me!”

Jesus, My Refuge, Hymns of Zion # 232

Ohio, Rittman

Mardel Dotterer, Julie Steiner

He is our Rock. He is our Refuge. He is our all. But, there’s another word… “favorite”. Is God our favorite? Are other things more favored? What gets our thoughts, and our final decision-making nudge? Recently, a sermon brought out the concept of surrender. We surrender to God in repentance, then as we walk with God, can’t we say he becomes our favorite? Notice if this sounds like God is the psalmist’s favorite…

“She Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.” Psalms 18:2

A weekend of baptisms refreshed us, as we welcomed four new young brothers, Bro. Ryan Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Michelle), Bro. Adam Baltic (Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy), Bro. Christopher Schar (Bro. Nate and Sis. Linda), and Bro. Josh Zollinger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH).

God is still calling! We rejoice with several new converts this month, Molly Baltic (Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy), Grace Hong, and Gloria Hong. May God become their favorite.

We rejoice with Bro. Brian Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier (Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra), as God has led them together. They look forward to a June 19 wedding date.

Some of our loved ones experienced pain and hospitalization this past month. We remember our Bro. Fred Stoller, Sis. Jean Bauman, and Sis. Kathy Ryan (Bro. Jeff) as they go through difficult times.

Harrison Michael Stoller was born February 28 to first-time parents Bro. Derek and Sis. Jan Stoller. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Stoller, and Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf.

Seeing loved ones for the last time always brings tears to our eyes. On February 22, Rosemary Raifsnider passed away. She is the mother-in-law of Sis. Diana
Raifsnider. Then, on March 8, Marguerite Miller left this life. She is the mother of Bro. Mike Miller (Sis. Robin). On March 19, Bro. Ron Gasser (Sis. Hope) entered eternity. He leaves behind two children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Janice), and Sis. Joy Stoller (Bro. Greg), grandchildren, great-grandchildren, his sister Sis. Betty Steiner, and a legacy of love.

We are thankful for visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), Elder Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Nathaniel Ramsey (Sis. April, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH), Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH) and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH).

Ohio, Smithville
Matt and Dawn Brake
“Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when thou hearest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.” 2 Kings 22:18-19

What a God honoring heart attitude King Josiah had when he found out that the book of God’s Law had not been obeyed. Humility, as evidenced by a tender heart and repentance, is what God is looking for in our hearts every single day that we serve him. And God responds to that heart attitude, gives us grace, and hears us!

What a joy to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Kolton Dotterer (Elder Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura). We were blessed to witness the humility it took him to, first, begin a walk of repentance and overcoming before God, and then to publicly confess his faith in baptism. Thank you to Elder Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) for being willing to help with the baptism and share God’s word. Also, thanks to Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO) for teaching us from the Word.

Once a month, our children get together for what we call Children’s HarvestCall. They have done a large variety of projects including packing many kits, making items for benefit auctions, packing shoeboxes, and much more. The kids really enjoy working together with their friends and it’s a great opportunity to teach them to think of and help others. Many thanks go to Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle and Sis. Hannah Maibach who organize the kids’ projects each month.

Note of Thanks:
I sincerely want to thank each one for your prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, meals and visits as I underwent surgery and am recovering. My recovery is going well. I am humbled and blessed to be part of a precious brotherhood in which we have the privilege to help and support each other over the mountains and through the valleys of life. May God bless and reward each of you as only He can.

In Christian love, Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Bro. Dana)

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

Our congregation recently had a singing to show our appreciation for the 51 years of ministry that Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann) gave us. He began serving on the pulpit in 1971 in Rittman and then continued on in Smithville. Many will remember the way he shared his vivid war experiences, his focus on the magnificence of God’s creation and the way he made God the center of it all.

We extend our sympathies to the families that lost loved ones in recent weeks. Sis. Kathy Ault (Bro. David) laid to rest her father, Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Janette, dec., Rittman, OH). Also mourning his loss are his siblings, Bro. Bob Stoller (Sis. Eileen), retired Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, dec.), Sis. Carolyn Stoller, and Sis. Elma Stoller and in-laws Sis. Luella Stoller (Bro.

Ohio, Smithville
Sharon Gasser, Marcy Stoller
“Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the Lord, when thou hearest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the Lord.” 2 Kings 22:18-19

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In Christian love, Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Bro. Dana)
Harold, dec.) and Sis. Luzelda Stoller (Bro. Donald, dec.). The death of Thelma Riggenbach was grieved by in-laws Bro. Don Riggenbach (Sis. Gail) and Bro. Art Riggenbach (Sis. Lynne). Eileen Beery (Art) was saddened by the passing of her brother, Gerald Snyder. May the peace of God be with them.

Ohio, Toledo
Brooke Harmon, Sharon Rager
We were blessed to have company on a Sunday when many of our home folks were gone. Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) and their families spent the day with us. We appreciated the meditations from all of them as well as their fellowship. Toledo has several colleges, and we welcome the young people who come to visit them and those who choose to attend one of them.

“...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.

Our Invite-a-Guest weekend was March 5-6. We enjoyed the fellowship of many visitors with dinner and a singing on Saturday evening. Our visiting ministers that weekend were, Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL). We thank them for lending themselves to preach God’s word.

On the following Sunday, Bro Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH) and family visited us. We enjoyed their company and appreciated Matt’s message.

Ontario, Heidelberg
Johanna Fortenbacher
Greetings from Heidelberg!
Yes, our church got a new name because we sit in Heidelberg!
A name that will never change is our God name, Jehovah.
"That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth." Psa. 83:18

There were other names familiar to us who "Zoomed in" to share the Word of God. These ministers were Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN). Thank you so much for encouraging us through your ministry and may God bless you richly.

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Remember that you’re always invited to join us on Zoom.

Oregon, Silverton
Louisa Gallup
We thank Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR) for bringing us the Word recently. It was a blessing to have you both with us for the day. It means a lot to us to have the added fellowship and support. May God bless you for giving of yourselves for the benefit of others.

As the war in Ukraine rages on, we continue to pray for the people there who are suffering tremendously. We also think of our Nazarene brethren in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, and pray for their safety. For those of us with loved ones in Europe, this war is close to home. It intensifies the urge to pray for this grave situation to end and for a measure of peace to return to the area. May God be merciful and grant deliverance from the devastation and suffering.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn
Thank you to Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) for joining us for Sis. Trisha Metzger's (Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth) baptism and the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessing to hear Sis. Trisha's testimony, and we look forward to continue to grow together as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Please pray for Ellie Kuenzi (Clinton Kuenzi) as her brother in law, Wayne (Mary) Dixon, recently passed away from cancer. We’re thankful for the power of prayer and the comfort of the Holy Spirit in times like this.

Thank you to Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA)
for sharing the gospel message with us the weekend of February 27. We always appreciate your visits and look forward to meeting again!

Bro. Brent and Sis. Laura Sinn welcomed their fifth child on March 3, a boy, Nolan Donald. Grandparents are Angeles Lozada and Maximino Jimenez from Mexico and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.


Bro. Darren and Sis. Rachael Sinn welcomed their fourth child on March 16, a boy, Jude Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rossworm from Latti, OH, and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

Nick Von Flue (Bro. Dan Von Flue) and Maylee McVay (Corey McVay and Kathleen Young) were married on March 5. We are prayerful that God would direct their steps and grow them in his love!

Our Silverton congregation continues to be blessed as new souls surrender their lives to the Lord!

Makaila Kuenzi (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Stacie), Kidron Schurter (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kim) and Troy Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) desire to follow Jesus and make a commitment to him! Please pray for grace and peace as they grow in their spiritual journeys.

**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…"
*Morning Hymn, Zions Harp, #166*

We are enjoying unusually warm weather for March here in Philadelphia. It is always so exciting to see the signs of spring around us! We have also enjoyed the warmth of the fellowship and the love of the brethren and our heavenly Father. May God bless each one as we seek to serve him more faithfully.

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

*Candy Meiss*

"Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth" *Psa. 96:7-9*

What a blessing to welcome our visiting brothers and sisters from near and far and have sweet fellowship in one accord as we worship together. We are so very thankful for their efforts to visit our small church. We were blessed by hearing the pure word of God by Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX), and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) as they served us on the pulpit. We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Gerry and Bro. Leland as they served us Communion. What a blessing to be renewed in spirit as we partook in Holy Communion together. Special thank you to Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzy for providing an BBQ potluck that was enjoyed by all.

**Texas, Austin/Bastrop**

*Candy Meiss*

"Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my hands,
and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love."
*Take My Life, and Let It Be, Hymns of Zion, #106*

The Dallas church was blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita Gridley, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin/Bastrop, TX) serve our church family.

While preaching, Bro. Daren touched on wilderness experiences that many throughout the Bible went through and how many of us today deal with them. In Exodus 3 we read about Moses’ wilderness experience. In the backside of the desert, God calls out to Moses through a burning bush and reveals his will for Moses to lead the Israelites to the promised land. God met Moses where he was and called him out by name. He wasn’t a forgotten shepherd wandering the barren desert. Moses was seen, known, and chosen by God. Others like Abraham, Hagar, David, Elijah, John the Baptist,
even Jesus himself, all went through a wilderness of some kind. It is in the wilderness where we are humbled, refined, and fully dependent on God.

How many of us have gone through a wilderness experience or maybe are in the midst of one now? While at times they may be difficult, we can take hope in knowing we are not alone or without purpose. Bro. Daren also pointed out how the Israelites continually remembered their wilderness journey and God’s provisions. We too should continually look back on those wilderness times and praise God for all he has done.

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, contact Luanne Collins (972.754.6532).

Texas, Zapata
Mary Plattner

We are thankful for all our visitors who made the trip to South Texas this winter. We appreciate the willingness of those who came to serve us. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) was here to serve Communion and the reading of the Memorandum. Also providing God’s word was Ordained Deacon Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Clint Dotterer (Sis. Rebecca, Denver, CO).

Our church family has had some busy weeks as a building was constructed to expand our local charity work. The building is known as the Zapata Caring Center and will be the center where we can provide clothing and food to those in need. During this building project we were blessed to have brothers from several Midwest congregations come to help with the construction.

We hosted an Invite-a-Guest weekend in February which has now become an annual event. We enjoyed the fellowship with all that came. Anyone is welcome to come. Mark your calendar for the 2nd weekend in February. You do not need a special invitation.

Our sympathy to the family of retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) who served as our elder for several years. He and his wife Sis. Sue spent several winters in Zapata, and we have many precious memories of those years.

A group of about 35 Sunday school youth from Forrest, IL came to McAllen to work on projects in the Rio Grande Valley. We appreciated the prayers for God’s protection and blessings as they worked among the less fortunate.

Our winter season is nearing an end again. Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is most welcome but please call us. During the summer months we often travel for weekends. We are the only ones here during the summer months and we would not want to miss your visit.

Vermont, Clarendon
Sarah Wagenbach

We wish to thank those from Rockville, CT who have spent time with us this past month. Elder Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi) came and assisted Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan in reading the Memorandum. We wish them and their family God’s blessings for their service and the fellowship they gave us. Also visiting us from Rockville was the seventh grade Sunday school class. We so enjoyed getting to know them and watching all of the Sunday school children interact throughout the day both in church and activities later in the day. Their visit was a blessing to us!
W E HAVE a fascination with leadership. Innumerable books describe what leadership is, proclaim what it should be, and recommend how to do it well. Many Bible studies, sermons, and workshops seek to extract and expound upon Biblical leadership secrets using Christ, Moses, Daniel, and others as models. We generally give much less attention to how they exemplified submission – even though it was essential for their achievements. God empowered them to do great things for his glory through their obedience. For us – like them, submission brings good fruit from our lives.

As Lord over all things, Jesus still practiced submission. He gave up his rights and accepted undeserved punishment for people who mocked and mistreated him. Keeping his eyes on the joy to come, he obeyed in spite of the cost. He chose obedience without complaint or commentary. He obeyed in small things as well as great. Jesus’ obedience perfected him, and it saves all who become obedient to him.

Like Jesus, submission to God both nurtures and demonstrates our faith. The word translated faith in the New Testament (the Greek word pistis) means belief that results in faithful obedience. Pistis is loyalty. Both demons and saints know that Jesus is the Christ, but only the redeemed live in allegiance to him. The sheep and the goats, the obedient and disobedient sons, and the faithful and unprofitable servants all receive judgment according to their deeds, not their claims. Submission to Christ demonstrates that we love him and have truly made him our Lord. Obedience fertilizes our spiritual growth. Without it, we become fruitless; our pistis dies.

Moses accomplished incredible things because he submitted to God. God provided the power and guidance; Moses provided the follow through – even when he doubted and had different personal preferences. When confronted with impossible circumstances, obstinate people, and jealous rivals, Moses turned to God. He did not treat God like a mere counselor whose advice he could follow or reject as he pleased. After Moses expressed his fears and frustrations to God alone, he submitted and faithfully obeyed … except when he did not.

Moses directly disobeyed God when he struck – instead of speaking to – the rock at Meribah. We may feel that Moses’ subsequent punishment was harsh, but his action stole credit that belonged to God. The people may not have known that Moses disobeyed, but they knew that Moses said he would bring water from the rock, and water came. Taking on a level of responsibility God had not given him, Moses made himself the people’s savior. He usurped God’s position.

We also usurp God’s position when we undermine, discredit, or manipulate legitimate authority. Authority is God-ordained, whether it exists in our homes, our workplaces, the church, or the secular government. He alone is the judge of the rulers he sets in place. When we ignore authorities based on our own preferences or feelings, we declare that we – not God – determine who is in charge.

Scripture has strong words for self-will, comparing rebellion to practicing sorcery and stubbornness to idol worship. These are not exaggerated descriptions; they accurately reflect what happens in our hearts when we subvert God-ordained authority. Intentional disobedience is taking power that God has not given to us. When we demand that others bend to our way or stubbornly follow our own ideas and plans, we make ourselves into a false-god. The idol we are worshiping is our self – our opinions, our feelings, our information, and our beliefs.

When leaders are ungodly, imperfect, or incompetent, we must still behave respectfully. Pagan
rulers trusted Joseph, Daniel, and Nehemiah because of their wisdom and humble conduct. Mordecai and Esther were careful not to humiliate a self-absorbed king as they operated through legal means to counteract an unjust law. Jesus instructed his disciples to obey the Pharisees' teachings without copying their hypocrisy. Peter exhorted the brethren to respond to persecution with gentleness and longsuffering – following Christ's example. Paul and the other apostles submitted to unjust imprisonments, beatings, and executions without insurrection or demanding compensation for their mistreatment.

When human authorities directly command God's people to contradict or deny his explicit commands, we should appeal for understanding and seek a considerate resolution. Daniel sought accommodations for his diet by offering a solution that did not inconvenience, expose, or threaten others.

When polite appeals fail, Christians should quietly disobey and submit to the consequences rather than engaging in public protests, sabotage, or demands for regime change. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the Apostles all model this for us. These Biblical figures exemplified humble attitudes and meek disobedience that glorified God and won over many hardened hearts.

Of course, submission does not mean surrendering to abuse if we can avoid it. Elijah hid. Early believers fled Jerusalem in the face of Saul's crackdown. Paul escaped in a basket. When ordained authority is abusive, God exhorts his people to respectfully address the issues and to separate themselves if there is no repentance. David is a good example. When Saul attacked him, David simply stayed away. Though already anointed as the next king of Israel, David did not lead a rebellion. He refused to hurt Saul – even when it seemed like God had given him miraculous opportunities to do so. Christians may entreat abusive authorities. If the abuse persists, they should quietly remove themselves rather than seek to overthrow or malignant the established order.

Submission leads to blessing. Like Christ, that path sometimes goes through suffering, but it ends in joy. The practice of submitting to earthly authorities prepares us to submit to Christ. Jesus promised to reveal himself to those who obey his commands. Just as Jesus' submission kept him in God's love, Christ declared that submission would keep us in his love. Faithful obedience draws us to God. This message should fill us with joy.

A Roman centurion amazed Jesus with a faith founded on his understanding of authority and submission. To paraphrase, he said, “I obey the orders of my superiors, as my subordinates must obey me. So, command my servant to be healed, and I know it will be done.” Without fanfare or room for loopholes, he demonstrated a simple yet profound faith based on unquestioned obedience to a superior officer. Practicing faithful submission enabled him to recognize Jesus' authority, which saved his servant's life. For us – like him, submission leads to salvation.

End Notes:
1 James 3:17, 1 Peter 5:5
2 1 Corinthians 8:6, 1 Timothy 6:15, Colossians 1:15-18, Mark 1:27,
3 1 Corinthians 15:28, Philippians 2:6-8
4 Hebrews 12:3
5 Matthew 3:15
6 Hebrews 5:7-9
7 Matthew 25:31:46
8 Matthew 21:28-31
9 Matthew 25:14-30
10 John 14:15, John 14:23-24
11 James 2:14-26
12 Numbers 20:2-13
13 Meaning to supplant; to take authority, power, or position by force or without the right to do so.
14 John 19:10-11, Daniel 2:21, Daniel 4:17,
15 John 5:22-30, James 4:11-12, Romans 14:10-13, Revelation 20:12
16 1 Samuel 15:23
18 Matthew 3:23
19 1 Peter 3:14-18
21 Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-8, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15,
22 John 15:10
23 John 14:21
24 Matthew 8:5-13
25 Psalm 50:23
Jesus in the night of His betrayal,
When His covenant He did endow,
When His blood, in love and grace eternal,
For transgression and for sin did flow,
He established for His church a token,
That His covenant might ne'er be broken,
This His holy Sacrifice and feast,
For His own, from sin and death released.

After they the paschal lamb had eaten,
He took bread, and breaking it, gave thanks;
Shared it with His own belov'd disciples,
Who in love and trust had joined His ranks,
"Take and eat, my body I do offer,
As unto the death for you I suffer;
This a mem'ry of my death and pain,
Likewise your redemption shall remain."

When of this blest bread they had partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God above,
Having been unto this feast invited
And found worthy of His grace and love,
He the cup into His hands did gather,
Giving thanks unto His heav'nly father,
Said to His disciples: "Drink this wine,
As a token of my blood divine."

"This cup is the blood of my new cov'nant,
Which for many sinners I have shed;
Therein lies the promise and the power
Of each one who unto sin is dead."
So this blood, which flowed on Calv'ry's mountain,
Unto full salvation is the fountain;
And this cup reminds us of the blood,
Which for sin was made a cleansing flood.

His blood purifies the congregation
Of His children, whom He did atone,
Whom He loved sincerely ere creation.
He to them says: "Ye are Mine alone!"

Constantly His Church He is adorning,
And His faithfulness is new each morning.
His good Spirit giveth He as seal,
As His sacred promises reveal.

Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,
Members of His Church, your faith renew;
Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out for you.
Here your hands in faithfulness uniting
And the fire of brother-love new lighting,
Let your common prayers rise to His throne.
Thank and praise Him who hath made you one!

By their love His members are united
In a union godly and devout;
All who love their holy vows have plighted;
All who do not love belong without.
In their love this blessed meal is taken,
In their love they shall abide unshaken;
Many members are as one arrayed,
As from many grains one bread is made.

Therefore, when ye to your Master's glory,
Come to keep this holy feast of love,
Ye must truly hear salvation's story,
Joining those whose homeland is above!
Then true love will heart to heart bind ever,
And no discord will this union sever;
One in Jesus Christ they all shall be,
He the Head of His community!

This is life and there is peace and gladness,
There contentment, grace, and mercy flow;
There the light of Jesus scatters sadness,
Shining with a soft and blessed glow.
O, who would not joy in this salvation,
Yearn to dwell within that habitation
Where the Light of life shines full and free,
Giving men new life and liberty!
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

**News and Notices**

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

Be sure to download the latest update to get the newest features

Check Google Play or the App Store

Shape the future of AC Central
Submit feedback, report bugs, and vote for suggested features at accentral.userecho.com

Help us improve the app and build new features
Software development is expensive. Donations for AC Central are greatly appreciated and can be made at onwardmedia.org or by scanning this QR code.

**2022**

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES**

**Clyde Park, Montana**

Saturday June 25th
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 2022, please contact one of the following Bros.

**From Lester**
Wes Moser 712-395-2025 wesmoser58@gmail.com
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647 bobcmet@alliancecom.net
or 612-963-0089 (mobl)

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

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT
Yellowstone River Inn & Suites (406-222-4400) has 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 24th

Online registration link https://bit.ly/3H5ufi8
Register to Attend ALive 2022 by April 15th or until capacity is reached

Planning is underway for the Athens, Alabama congregation to host ALive 2022 over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27 – 30!

We’re looking forward to spending another year at the Vision retreat center in Huntsville, AL (www.visionministry.org) as we create and cultivate cross-generational relationships through fellowship, worship, and teaching centered on the gospel. Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Matthew Moore (Athens, AL) plan to speak at this year’s event on the theme of Provision/Protection/Purpose centered on the scriptures in Romans 8:28-29.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Hurry and register to attend ALive 2022 by April 15th or until we’ve reached capacity, whichever comes first. View other details about the weekend by visiting the website at www.ALiveAlabama.com or the Facebook page @ALiveAlabama. If you would like more information, send an e-mail to info@alivealabama.com. Additionally, sign up to receive future updates about ALive by subscribing to our email list on our website.

As the Committee continues planning for this year’s event, they ask for your prayers that ALive 2022 can be an uplifting event where relationships can be strengthened, the body is unified and above all that God is glorified.

NEW MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Vulnerable youth like Rosie are waiting on YOU to make a move.

By signing up to be a monthly giver, you can be all the difference they need.

As a Sower of Hope, giving what you can every month, you will receive regular communications that will keep you connected to the mission of Gateway Woods and gain a deeper understanding of how your support makes an eternal difference. Sign up today to receive a special gift as a reminder to pray for the youth you are impacting.

Scan the QR code or visit: gatewaywoods.org/sowers-of-hope for more info and to start sowing seeds today!
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Your support provides basic education that is necessary for them to learn and grow into productive adults. A Christ-centered curriculum allows sponsored children to learn of the hope and love of Jesus and eventually to know his saving grace.

To learn more and choose a child to sponsor, visit harvestcall.org/childsponsorship.

Current sponsors may check their payment status and set up automatic payments.

OR - Fill out this form and send to the office. You'll be assigned a student or school and sent further information.

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  □ Mr.  □ Mrs.  □ Miss
Spouse _________________________
Address _________________________
City __________ ST ___ Zip_________
Phone __________________________
  □ Home  □ Cell
Email ___________________________

Please check student preference:
  □ Haiti Student  □ Jamaica
  □ Haiti School  □ Guatemala
  □ Mexico  □ Zambia
  □ Wherever Needed

If possible, I prefer:
  □ Boy - Age _____
  □ Girl - Age _____
  □ No Preference

Send to:
HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
childsponsorship@harvestcall.org
Missionary Service Opportunities

You can find full role descriptions at harvestcall.org/missionary-openings or the Job Postings section of AC Central.

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

- **Haiti**
- **Jamaica**
- **Mexico**

**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 the ministry of Deaf Can Coffee and the E3 fellowship gathering. - Kingston, Jamaica

**JAMAICA**

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

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

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

- **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

**Awareness Tours - Haiti**
If you'd like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumière and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the hospital, see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti.

Upcoming trips are as follows:

**HarvestCall Team Schedule - Haiti**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Team Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Leader/Church - Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Communion</td>
<td>April 2-9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Maintenance</td>
<td>April 9-16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>April 23-29</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>April 29-M 6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>May 6-13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jon Zeller <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a> 309-266-9009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Awareness Tours - Jamaica**
If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the ministry and see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti.

Upcoming trips are as follows:

**HarvestCall Team Schedule - Jamaica**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Team Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Leader/Church - Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>5-27/6-4/22</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg <a href="mailto:Lindbma@hotmail.com">Lindbma@hotmail.com</a> 815-641-9065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>6/4-11/22</td>
<td>SS</td>
<td>Greg Eisenman <a href="mailto:GEisenm2@gmail.com">GEisenm2@gmail.com</a> 815-954-3129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica, contact Loren Dettwyler at: lmdettwyler@gmail.com

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To learn more, Email or Call:
Loren Dettwyler, lmdettwyler@gmail.com or 503-580-9629

Rick Wuethrich, rick@wuethrichfarms.com, 219.863.4163
**Missionary Service Opportunities**

*in Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico*

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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

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You can find full role descriptions at harvestcall.org/missionary-openings or the Job Postings section of AC Central.

For additional details for these exciting and worthy service opportunities contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
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On Sale: 4/15 — 5/15/2022
Jesus the True Vine [1501]
This Bible Study focuses on John 15:1-8 and is intended for a general audience. It may be used for self-study or with a group. The desired outcome is a deeper understanding of the union of Christ and His church. **Price: $5.50**

Communication in Marriage [1502]
This is a Bible Study that is designed specifically for use by engaged or married couples. It is divided into seven segments each of which could be used for a unique study period. The purpose is to understand the scriptural directives and Biblical principles of effective communication that contribute significantly to a successful marriage. **Price: $5.50**

Who Jesus Is [1503]
This Bible Study is for general use and is designed to encourage self-study by each participant as well as discussion within a group. The desired outcome is a deeper understanding of the character and mission of the Lord Jesus Christ, the impact of His life on each of us, and how we can exemplify Him in our walk of life. **Price: $5.50**

The Second Greatest Commandment [1504]
This Bible study seeks to illuminate our understanding of Bible teachings about interpersonal relationships. **Price: $5.50**

The Hand of God in the Life of Joseph [1505]
The story of Joseph is perhaps one of the best known and loved stories in the Old Testament. Herein we catch glimpses of God's will and purpose exemplified in the life of Joseph. We see the hand of God in the life of Joseph, which demonstrates how God's goodness is active in the lives of his people. **Price: $5.50**

**Sharing the Gospel [1632] Price: $4.50**
The Study consists of nine lessons that explore the topics: “What is the Gospel?”, personally preparing to share, ways to communicate the gospel and overcoming fear when sharing. Additionally, the Study explores the importance of the role of the church in outreach, fostering a culture of evangelism and the blessings of God that result from faithful evangelism.

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- The Word of God [1511] **Price: $5.50**
- Living in Christian Community [1513] **Price: $5.50**

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We currently need an Assistant Houseparent, Communications Administrative Assistant, Houseparent Couple, GW Farms Assistant, Teacher, WillowBridge Community Advocates, and a Communications Coordinator. Will you be the beautiful feet that come and labor to share Christ?

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
that is the Spirit, trimmed and burning! In practice, this can often begin by simply praying each day that, even as the Spirit descended on the Apostles on the morning of Pentecost, Holy Spirit fill, guide and direct me this day that I might praise God by walking in his love. Christ is the exclusive source of our virtue.

At this point, please allow a diversion to make this directly relevant to our present culture. The reality that Christ is both the definition and source of Christian virtue suggests at least two reasons that faith must precede Christian virtue, as Peter makes clear by instructing us to “add to your faith virtue.” First, and likely most familiar, is that it is only by faith in Christ’s redemptive work on the cross that we gain access to Him as the source of virtue. Second, but also critically important, is that if we do not confess by faith that Christ is raised from the dead and victorious, then the spirit of Caesar (which embodies human virtue), not Christ, is victorious and the proper definition of virtue. Perhaps this partially explains why in the post-Christian west, secular virtue increasingly embraces violence, anger, and power as virtuous when attached to some other normative good such as justice. It’s Caesar’s virtue, not Christ’s virtue. To navigate our present culture, therefore, we must keep both principles in mind, for example, by embracing justice and righteousness with Christ’s meekness, love, and humility.

Much more could and has been said about virtue, including the danger of blindly forsaking virtue. However, we can conclude by embracing virtue as a wonderful and beautiful gift. We press into it because it is a present possession and principal objective of our salvation. It is the glorious dress of the church, and it is how we become Christ’s true image bearers to a suffering world who so desperately needs to see his face. Thanks be to God!

Endnotes
1. Revelation 19:7-8
2. 2 Peter 1:3-5
3. Compare 2 Peter 1:4 with 2 Peter 1:8-11
4. 2 Peter 1:5
5. 1 John 3:3
6. Romans 6:13
7. Ephesians 2:8
8. Revelations 19:7-8
10. 2 Timothy 2:1-4 (see also Philippians 2:25; Philemon 1:2)
11. The implications of this shift are important to understand. A few years ago, there was a then-popular Christian curriculum for raising godly boys. It included a toy catalogue to outfit your sons as a virtual “Indiana Jones” character, equipped with a heavy arsenal and wilderness survival kit! It risked putting a Christian veneer on Caesar rather than calling us to raise sons to be like Christ.
12. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
13. Galatians 5:22-23
14. Romans 6:13
15. This is the root of a heresy in the Early Church known as Pelagianism. Pelagius taught that man might by mere exercise of his free will achieve human perfection, rejecting the doctrine of original sin and the consequent necessity of grace to attain virtue. Such a system may well yield outwardly good men, but it will never yield men who mature “unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13) This heresy is alive and well if we carefully examine the world around us.
17. 2 Peter 1:5
18. 2 Peter 2:19-21; see also Matthew 12:43-45
19. See, for example, Isaiah 6:13 (“But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.”)
The next few issues of Remembering will include comments about the Zion’s Harp Hymnal, the main worship songbook of the Apostolic Christian Church. Excerpts are taken from a booklet, “A Treasure of Praise,” written in 1977 by Perry Klopfenstein, and several re-printings have taken place since that time. It is a history of the Zion’s Harp Hymnal, and the intent of the publication was to capture the deep essence of the hymnal concerning the lyrics and their deep meaning. This first issue of this series points to the eloquence of the hymns.

A Sea of Musical Eloquence
It is a beautiful Sunday morning. The sky is sunny and clear. The springtime air is mild and mellow, and together with nature’s fresh, appealing fragrance, it creates an atmosphere that invigorates one’s soul and being.

Such a setting is often evident when driving to the house of God on a Lord’s Day morning. And while the richness of God’s handiwork -- in the form of the air, the sky, and the sun -- is readily manifest and a delight to behold, yet another wonderful experience awaits the child of God upon entering the sanctuary of an Apostolic Christian Church.

Hymn singing has already begun and the time soon elapses to nominally four or five minutes prior to the beginning of the worship service. At this time, nearly all the people are very orderly seated in their places. It is peaceful, solemn, and quiet. The heart takes on a calm repose as the assembly centers its thoughts on the sublime and the divine - on Almighty God.

Often, at about this time, a beautiful song is sung which succinctly depicts the essence of the day and sets the stage, for the ensuing worship service. It is entitled “Morning Hymn” and is also known as, “Oh How Lovely Is The Morning.” This beauteous song begins in resonant splendor as brothers and sisters in Christ unite their voices in praise to God - and an obvious joy fills the heart. Not only are thoughts of God conjured up within the mind, but the beauty of the day serves as a poignant reminder of the presence of God’s love and power. It is a moment when one is truly glad he or she is in church on Sunday morning.

Adding to the beauty of the moment is the fact that the singing is done in “a capella” fashion, that is, without accompaniment of musical instruments. The natural beauty of the voices which ripple across the auditorium are blended together in a mellow, four-part harmony and this truly sets the tone for a worship service that is both dignified and eloquent in its simplicity.

The overall atmosphere is one of holiness and reflects the calmness, gentleness, and richness of God. The absence of instrumentation, in this particular instance, tends to symbolize a relationship to God that is best nurtured when lacking the weight and clutter of material things. In this case, the lifting of voices are completely natural as God gave them, and are not made comely by a material object. It is a sea of musical eloquence.

A Classic
To say the least, the Zion’s Harp is a classic. God is to be praised for allowing and preserving such a noted collection of songs for the brotherhood. The words and phrases were written by souls who had not only a close relationship with God, but a keen insight into everyday life -- and they were talented to translate those insights into singing patterns that inspire and uplift the seeking soul.

Too, this songbook is comprehensive and provides songs for all occasions; not only for joyful and happy times, but for times of sorrow and gloom as well. It also provides for reverent and serious times such repentance, baptism, and holy communion. The verse and prose are ideally suited for whatever situation arises. The background and development of the Zion’s Harp provide a full history that surrounds this great book.

Next issue - More on the Zion’s Harp

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

In Christ Hope Springs New

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.” John 12:24-25

Every spring we see the amazing transformation that a lifeless seed makes to become a living plant! One seed cannot increase and multiply while it is sitting inside a sack of corn. It is only when it is planted or it falls into the ground and the conditions are right with good soil and plenty of moisture, that the seed dies and new life springs forth.

A single grain of wheat has within itself the germ of life which has the capacity to become abundantly fruitful. It’s one of the Laws of the Harvest: whatever you sow, you will reap more than you sow. You never go to the time and energy to plant something without hoping to receive much more.

Jesus Christ was our heavenly example of a single grain of wheat, falling into the ground and dying, in order to bring forth an abundant harvest. There was no other way to redeem a lost world other than Christ had to die and be buried, alone. There was no resurrection without a crucifixion, there was no hope of eternal life without the death of Christ.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” 1 Cor. 15:20

In him was life! Jesus rose again, producing the rich harvest of a multitude of believers that spans 2000 years of history.

You are also like a seed that must die before it can live. You must die to your flesh, die to sin, and die to the world. The only way to be born again is to repent and make a break by turning away from sin. By losing your life in Christ to follow him, you will truly find it.

Since your conversion have you ever felt like that seed placed in the earth, alone and forgotten? Have you been through a season of darkness, a long time of testing, or felt useless? Watch out! God is actually at work in your life, using those times to mold you, teach you, and prepare you for a greater future service. Like a seed that has been planted, it is a time to die to yourself and to wait with hope for the new beginning that God has planned.

Joseph waited for the plan and promises of God to come true in his life, even though he had to experience years of great difficulty serving as a slave and then enduring darkness in the deepest prison. What kept Joseph focused on God’s plan during that extreme testing and not become bitter? He retained his hope in God (and hopefully recalled the dreams God gave him) and received a great reward at the time appointed.

Transformation in your life always brings God glory. And if you are his child, the biggest transformation is yet to come!

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.” 1 Cor. 15:42-44

-by Mike Walder
My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalm 73:26