The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,

Song of Solomon 2:12
There is a constant

Summer time brings a change of pace to many of our lives. For those in school, it is a break from ordinary routine. For many of us, it may mean vacation, picnics, reunions, and more time outside. At a minimum, it will signal a change in activities and location. It seems like a good time to remind ourselves that even with change, there is constant. It remains God’s desire for us to continue as lights in the world and cities on a hill. It is also God’s intent for us to remain His disciples and continue to be fruit-bearers.

An additional constant is our enemy. The Devil continues to go to and fro and up and down in the earth. Summer time is a good time to remind ourselves that Satan is well aware of our geography. We are not to be ignorant of Satan’s devices. Being off our turf and in a different routine, doesn’t need to give him the upper hand. Let’s remember how our Savior reminded us to watch and pray. We can remain pilgrims and strangers and continue to be separated from the world.

In Christian love,

Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Rick Plattner and Tom Stock
Light from the Word

Obedience

Theme verse: “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).

Throughout His ministry, Jesus taught obedience to God’s commands. In the Sermon on the Mount, He spoke of the need to keep the least of the commandments, and as He ascended from the Mount of Olives, He instructed His disciples to teach all nations to observe (obey) all things that He had commanded them. In His words: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19-20).

One of the great deceptions throughout history is the notion that the fact that Jesus is the “end of the law for righteousness”—which He is—means that there are no “rules” in a Christian’s life. This clearly contradicts Jesus’ teaching which included many commandments. In addition, if we understand that the Gospels do not contain all that Jesus did, (as John said in the last verse of his Gospel), and understand that the disciples undoubtedly carried out Jesus instruction to teach all things, we can also embrace the teachings of the Apostles as the fulfilling of Matt. 28:20, wherein they teach us to observe all things that Jesus commanded.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:18-20).

The clarity of Christ’s last words on earth should call us to a great awareness of His instruction and a great willingness to put it into practice in our life.

Why is it so easy for those of us who are believers to dismiss some of Christ’s commandments? Perhaps one of the major reasons is because outward and observable obedience can seem to validate one’s faith while we may be neglecting the Lord’s commands to love, forgive, be merciful, etc. Is it possible that the hypocrisy of self-righteousness in some has caused others to overreact? Perhaps some have rejected the importance of obedience by embracing “grace alone” as the key to salvation, while failing to remember the very purpose of that redemption.

The Apostle Paul writes that we are saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God. Yet, as is often the case with our finite human minds, it is difficult to grasp the fullness of “all the counsel of God.” We are also taught by Jesus that our righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the law. Righteousness is right living—not just right thinking.

What are some of the key commandments that Jesus taught?

In the Sermon on the Mount alone we find many: Love your enemies, resist evil, don’t swear an oath, don’t take revenge, don’t judge, be merciful, make things right with your brother before you approach God, don’t do good things for show, and love God and your neighbor. The Lord taught us to go above and beyond the Law of Moses rather than dismiss it. The Gospels emphasize that we are to love God with our whole being, love our neighbor as our self, and love one another as Christ loved us. The Epistles expand on these and teach application for daily living.

The Apostles conveyed more specific teaching as they wrote to young churches and helped them

— Please turn to pg. 63
The portion we have read tells us how our Lord Jesus Christ, after His entrance into Jerusalem, purified the temple of God from the worldliness that was displeasing to the Lord in His house. For the Lord had striven for the glory of God, as we have read and as it is also written in another place: “The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.”

Now, as I consider it, to the Lord this had not so much to do with the purifying of His house in the Old Testament temple as much more with the preservation of the house which He had determined to build and establish in the New Testament. For that temple of which we read here was destroyed long ago, and at that time the worldliness which had hindered and disturbed the worship of God reached its end. But even that temple had its significance and is a pattern of the house of God in His church – and the Lord is concerned with this house, that it might be preserved in purity. Thus I would like to direct my meditation to this house of God which is patterned on that one. For I can also believe that the Lord is occupied with this and working to purify His church from all that is displeasing to him. In another gospel it states that He made a scourge of small cords to drive out all that did not belong there. The believers must likewise experience this scourge for their purification and discipline, so that they may be purified from all that which is displeasing to the Lord.

Just as in those days, the worship of God was hindered by worldliness, so yet today is the world often a cause that men cannot sincerely and inwardly be converted, because they are held back from turning to God, as God lamented in Isaiah: “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.” And it often happens exactly this way in the world. But children of God draw near in their hearts and seek the honor and praise of God and the glory of His name, as Paul also says: “singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” If the profit that the buyers and sellers were striving after had really been so valuable, then the Lord would probably have dealt with the tables of the money changers more carefully and not overthrown them. But the glory of God was more precious to Him than the perishable gain of the world and He sought to recover that honor – even if earthly gain was to be lost thereby. And we have the mind of Christ in us, as the Apostle says, then the glory of God is more dear and more precious to us than a fleeting profit. Yet men have it the other way around, in that to them a little earthly gain is more valuable than the glory of God; they would cast away a good conscience toward God and defile the honor of God on account of a small profit, as the Apostle says: They have cast away faith and a good conscience. In doing so they will have sought after something else – after the perishing things – while casting away faith and a good conscience.

The Lord says further: “It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” We must understand in what sense the Lord meant this. The house of God in the Old
Testament had not become a den of thieves in the sense that thieves or murderers actually sought refuge there in order to carry out their handiwork; rather, it is to be understood in a spiritual sense. A den of thieves was a hiding place where thieves or murderers fled when they had committed a crime so that the worldly arm of justice would not grasp them. This is the reason that they took refuge in a den of thieves, where they believed themselves to be secure. And sinners seem to do the same, and so did the Jews of that time, who sought to protect themselves in this way. That is, when they had practiced sin and evil, then they took to the Lord for refuge, in order to bring their sacrifice and to serve Him so that the arm of His righteousness would not grasp them. But the Lord had already shown that He had no pleasure in such offerings and sacrifices in his command to the prophets through whom he told the people of Israel, that they should leave off from evil and begin to do good, and then their offerings and prayers would be acceptable to him. Men go about in a similar way in the present time, in that when they have lived for about a year in sin and wickedness and the load of their sins has grown great, they seek refuge in the so-called house of God in order to bring their offerings and prayers, and think that by this they have made their evil deeds right again. I would like to use an example here: A mischievous man once said on Sunday evening that he had been in church that day, so he could certainly indulge himself in his lusts and pleasures. And so men think that in such a way they can make their evil deeds right and be protected from the arm of righteousness, as the thieves or murderers in the den of thieves thought themselves secure. This does not concern the killing of men’s bodies, for they can also be spiritually murdered as to the life that comes from God.

It is said further: “And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.” Beloved, what is said here of the blind and lame really took place, in that the naturally blind and lame, in the common sense, were healed by our Lord because they had come to the right physician.

I would like to say that since the time of Adam we have been nothing but blind and lame with respect to the inner man, even as we recognize ourselves as such, that we feel the load and sorrow of the same, then we repent and turn ourselves to our Lord with our plea to be healed therefrom. For as already mentioned, we must all be healed from our blindness and lameness, otherwise we will remain in it until our death. In our lameness we cannot walk in the Lord’s ways, just as the lame are unfit for work, so is also the natural man inept and unfit for the good works of God. For concerning the service of God, as children of God ought to serve Him, the natural man has neither hands nor feet for the service of the Lord, that he could either stir or move about; much rather he has hands and feet for carrying out unrighteousness and evil.

But when the Lord has healed us from our natural blindness and lameness of the heart, then we can become lithe and graceful in the service of God to all manner of good words and deeds, so that we are not burdened but rather willingly render our members as instruments of righteousness, as the apostle exhorts. “And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying Hosanna to the son of David, they were sore displeased.” On this occasion the chief priests and scribes demonstrated once again what they truly were; for I know that if they had been partakers of the divine nature, they would not have been displeased that the children cried Hosanna. They would have had to rejoice, if they had been partakers of the divine nature; for so it is to all the children of God, that it does not vex them when God

— Please turn to pg. 65
Make a Difference . . . Save a Starfish

Child Sponsorship

Many of you have heard the “starfish” story. A young girl was walking along a beach where thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. People watched with amusement. She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!” The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference to that one!”

This story reflects the essence of Child Sponsorship. While there are millions of children who live in poverty and can’t afford an education, you can make a difference . . . one child at a time. Our Apostolic Christian child sponsorship program currently serves over 1,600 students in five countries: Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Zambia. As you can imagine, there are many more needs than sponsors – there is an endless number of children who need to be saved, just like the starfish. While an education gives them an opportunity to become productive adults, a Christ-centered education may be their only chance to hear the Gospel message, literally saving them from eternal destruction.

Child sponsorship works

As reported in Christianity Today a few years ago, an economist from a major university conducted a comprehensive study to determine if child sponsorship actually made a difference. After evaluating data on over 10,000 former sponsored children from six countries, the findings demonstrated that child sponsorship works. Sponsored children were:

• 27-40% more likely to complete secondary school
• 50-80% more likely to complete a university education
• 14-18% more likely to obtain a salaried job
• 35% more likely to obtain a white-collar job

The study also found evidence that sponsored children are more likely to serve as community and church leaders. In addition, the research also found evidence for positive spillover effects on the family of sponsored children. When asked to explain these positive results, the president of a leading international child sponsorship organization said, “Try hope. Poverty causes children to have very low self-esteem, low aspirations. The big difference that sponsorship makes is that it expands children’s views about their own possibilities. Many of these children don’t think they are capable of much. We help them realize that they are each given special gifts from God to benefit their communities.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. – Galatians 6:10

— Please turn to pg. 64
Three Ways God Spreads His Word

Sharing the Gospel Across Cultures

God doesn’t need a process to send missionaries. The Apostolic Christian Church has found it beneficial to develop a process to assess, equip, and send missionaries, but we understand that there is no formula or “5 easy steps.” Rather, it is the work of the Holy Spirit as the Word instructs us to “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” It is His work to send forth missionaries and not ours.

So, why do we have a process?

We do it in faith, to uphold our brethren in love and support as they are sent of the Lord. We have steps that have been determined as helpful and wise in discerning the work of the Spirit, but they are not to replace the work of the Spirit.

In the Scriptures, we see three ways in which the Lord prepares people for sharing the gospel across cultures.

Responding to a Call to Go

Consider how God sent Abraham to Canaan or Paul on his missionary journeys. In these examples, God called and sent His people to go beyond their own culture for a work that He had prepared for them to do. This is how many people commonly see the command to “Go ye therefore.” And, as a brotherhood, the Outreach Process assists and supports brethren who volunteer to go.

Going Against Our Will

A second way the scriptures show God sending His people to cross cultures is when they are forced to go beyond their will. Consider Joseph being sold into slavery and God’s people living out His ways in Egypt. Or, the early church being persecuted and those brethren carrying the gospel with them as they were dispersed. An example of this in our brotherhood would be how missionary work began in Japan as a result of brethren being first sent there by the military.

Bringing People to Us

A third way that God sends His people, is when those from different cultures come into our world. Consider Ruth coming back to Judah or Cornelius sending for Peter. For many of us, this is how the Lord sends us into His work. We may have the opportunity through our workplace to build relationships and share the gospel with those who are very different from us. There are many international students attending area colleges. They have come to us and the Lord has given us an opportunity to share the glorious gospel with them.

So while our church’s Outreach Process provides support mainly for those in the first category – those being sent – we recognize that God works in a variety of ways to spread His Word. All of us must be listening to the Lord’s call to “Go ye therefore.” It may be that we feel called to go, but it could be that circumstances beyond our control require us to go. Or the Lord may bring people to our doorstep. In any case, we want to be ready and willing to go as He sends because He is the Lord of the Harvest.

If you are interested in learning more about our church’s Outreach Process or are considering a call to missionary service, contact Outreach Coordinator, Bro. Kirk Plattner at kirk@acmission.org or 765.357.1496.
Technology is an integral and prevalent part of today's society. It takes multiple forms, from personal computers to mobile devices to various media players, and it changes rapidly. While it has brought great gains in communication and productivity, technology also contains numerous aspects which can cause concern. Proper understanding, self-examination, and safeguards are essential when evaluating its implications for ourselves and our families.

Technology can be an exhaustive topic of discussion, but this brief article will discuss four key principles and the associated warnings in the realm of technology. It is centered on four scriptures which provide guidance into these standards and boundaries. Self-examination questions are given in each category.

Principle #1: We should seek to keep all of our activities consistent with the mind of Christ. “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes…” Ps. 101:3

• **Our Standard**: Users of technology are encouraged to maintain the Scriptures as their standard for purity while reflecting the gospel of Christ in all we do (Phil. 1:27).
• **Our Society**: The opportunity for impurity in the area of technology is increasingly prevalent today. Ease of access to content through various devices, lack of all-encompassing filtering programs, and the saturation of technology in society create a situation where each believer should be alert.
• **Our Approach**: Active use of filters and monitors should be considered a necessity for individuals and families, but it should also be realized that no filter is foolproof. Continued instruction in the discipline of holiness in all areas of life and proactive accountability to this standard should be encouraged.

Principle #2: All of our communication, whether in person, online, or using any type of technology, should be honoring to Christ and edifying to others. “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying…” Eph. 4:29

• **Our Standard**: Communication in all forms for a believer should be held to the high standards of the Word (Rom. 12:18).
• **Our Society**: The ease and immediacy of technology has given us the ability to quickly and rashly respond in a manner which is not Christ-like (Phil. 4:8, Jas. 1:19-20). In addition, lack of face-to-face contact has led to a decline in interpersonal skills which can lead to withdrawal and isolation. Constantly evolving social media venues (Facebook, blogging, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) can perpetuate these trends.
• **Our Approach**: It is important to purposefully use the light of the Scriptures to examine not only the type of communication we engage in, but also the quality and depth of relationships which we maintain.

Principle #3: We should be able to be temperate (have good self-control) in all of our activities dealing with technology. “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” 1 Cor. 6:12

• **Our Standard**: Without proper awareness, even good things from technology can keep us from "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16) as we are called to do in Scripture.
• **Our Society**: One of the more subtle dangers of technology is its ability to be a significant source of time usage and/or wasting, especially in children. This overuse of technology can diminish time spent on other beneficial activities and can minimize a healthy, wide spectrum of learning opportunities.
• **Our Approach**: We should perform regular
Questions for Self-Examination

Principle #1: We should seek to keep all of our activities consistent with the mind of Christ.

• Has technology led to an area(s) of impurity in your life?
• Would you be willing to have Jesus (or your Christian brother/sister) review your internet history?
• How have your internet activities helped you to better further Christ’s Kingdom?

Principle #2: All of our communication, whether in person, online, or using any type of technology, should be honoring to Christ and edifying to others.

• Are you free of any use of “corrupt communication” (Eph. 4:29) in your online posting or emailing? Are all of your communications free of gossip, bullying, and partiality?
• How has your communication fit the standard laid out in Philippians 4:8?
• How has your communication enhanced your relationships with others in a healthy, God-honoring manner? Do you still have healthy “face-to-face” relationships with others as well?

Principle #3: We should be able to be temperate (have good self-control) in all of our activities dealing with technology.

• Are there responsibilities in your life neglected due to how you are using technology?
• Do you have any addictive/uncontrolled behaviors related to your use of any technology (games, social networking, constantly checking your email, etc.)?
• In what ways are you utilizing technology to better “redeem the time” (Eph. 5:16)?

Principle #4: Prove all things. Determine if the values, beliefs, and purposes of the author(s) fit with biblical truth and the whole counsel of the Scriptures.

• Do the beliefs and standards of the material you are reading, viewing, and listening to fit with biblical principles?
• Have you searched the Bible for the subject in question? Are you willing to receive instruction

— Please turn to pg. 64
At the Home we have regular surveys of the quality of care we provide to our residents. The agencies who conduct them are responsible for auditing facilities to make sure laws and policies are followed, and in turn ensuring the welfare of people in the care of those agencies. We have had three separate agencies conduct surveys already this year, and anticipate the last one to occur at any time. We try our very best to do everything correctly and according to policy and procedure. However, our best efforts may not always be enough; sometimes we are at the mercy of the individual surveyor’s interpretation of the regulation. Just as we at the Home are to adhere to state regulations, God wants us to live by His standards that He has laid out in His word. It is the guide book that helps us in all areas of our life, and is for our good. Surveyors see inside our four walls and they know us by the way we act. We are known by our fruits, whether good or bad, and that reputation is very important to how our agency is perceived. I was delighted to hear the last surveyor say we have a good reputation within the Bureau. That speaks really well of our Agency and makes me proud to be a part of it. And in our daily walk of faith, others will know we belong to Christ when we act like it! We reflect His nature when we love Him and love others around us. We need to always be in a state of readiness, because we don’t know when the surveyor will walk through the door. When he or she arrives, there will be no time to change things and clean up our processes; they will assess us as they find us in that moment. We should be doing things correctly all the time and then the surveyor’s coming isn’t stressful, and we know we’re providing good care for the residents.

As we live our Christian lives we should live as if it might be our last day -- whether we die or go to meet Him in the sky. If the survey points to deficits, we are required to develop a plan of correction. We acknowledge if something isn’t done up to the standard that they, and we, want it to be. And we make the right changes to make sure we correct the problem. Sometimes God finds a deficit in our lives, and He may bring it to our attention in order for us to change our ways to live a better life for Him.

You don’t have a “surveyor” coming today, do you? If today is your day of reckoning, I pray you’ve taken advantage of the shed blood of Jesus and accepted Him as your personal Lord and Savior. Then you can hear the words, “Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into my kingdom” and all the sufferings, trials, and tribulations will have been worth it ALL!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Ed Graf – Gateway Woods Executive Director

Reunion Time

Summer is often the time we love to reconnect with friends and family at various reunions. We gather with those with whom we have a common connection, to celebrate, recreate and renew. For 39 years now, between 1500-2000 people, mostly Apostolic Christians from across the fruited plain, descend upon Gateway Woods campus to celebrate, recreate and renew their commitment to the calling God laid upon the heart of our church. This summer, on August 1, you are all cordially invited to that reunion at the Gateway Woods Annual Auction.

You’ll meet and greet brothers and sisters you’ve known for years, along with others you will be congregating with for the first time. Some will be in strollers, some will be in wheelchairs, and many will have ridden their bicycles hundreds
of miles just to be there. The fellowship is sweet and the sense of unity is awe-inspiring.

Like all good reunions and auctions, there will be an abundance of delectable food. Breakfast is available early, and lunch starts around eleven. Snacks of all kinds may be enjoyed throughout the day. I personally look forward to eating more savory grilled pork chop sandwiches than I should!

Then, of course, there’s the main event, the opportunity to support and minister to hurting young people and their families. The auction will start with devotion, prayer and praises to God in song. Then, smiling and jovial auctioneers will ply their trade and connect you to new, antique, or handcrafted items in exchange for your financial support. Hundreds and hundreds of donors and volunteers work together to provide this opportunity for you to serve the least of these. The support raised goes directly to provide professional counseling, supervision, support and accountability for hundreds of young people and their families.

As the inspiring day draws to a close, armies of young and old alike will swarm the campus and clean up everything in just a few short hours. As the few remaining folks survey the site, the sun will wend westward and a gentle breeze will whisper through the empty tents as if to say, “Surely the Lord has blessed this day.”

In closing, we thank you for all the prayers, love, encouragement and donations you offer to Gateway Woods throughout the year, and especially at auction time. Please mark August 1 as a special date on your calendar. For 38 years our brethren have turned out by the thousands to celebrate and support God’s goodness and provision for the ministry of Gateway Woods. Come to the reunion, whether for the first time, the 39th time, or any time in between. Your presence will make both of our summers special, and the Lord will be glorified!

**News:**

Mark your calendars! The Gateway Woods Auction is Saturday, August 1.

We are very thankful to announce several additions to the Gateway Woods team. Bro. Jesse & Sis. Karla Zimmerman (Forrest) have joined the Residential team as houseparents. Also, Bro. Brett Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Philip Fischer (Leo) have joined our team for the summer as the Volunteer Coordinator and Top Quality Coordinator. Please welcome them in prayer!

Bro. Rob Parker (Bluffton) has been hired as our new LARC Coordinator! The Linking to Attain Responsibility & Community, or LARC initiative seeks to build organic relationship between former Gateway Woods clients and community partners. These relationships will lead to employment opportunities, mentorship, spiritual growth and more. More information about this program is available at gatewaywoods.org/LARC. Please be prayerful for Bro. Rob as he begins his work at Gateway.

Summer is upon us and that means there are lots of volunteering opportunities at Gateway Woods! If you are interested in giving your time and talents, please contact Brett Hoerr at vol.coordinator@gatewaywoods.org or via phone at 260.627.2159.

There are three different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including: several openings for Alternate Houseparents, one opening for a Teacher, and one opening for a Home-Based Case Worker. For more information, please see the notices in this issue or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/careers. We trust that God will provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’.
Alabama, Athens
Apostolic Christian
Preschool

May has come and gone. We spent this month reviewing and practicing for graduation. This year we had nine graduates! Congratulations to Shaylyn, Lauren, Dawson, Vincent, Mike, Calyx, Mikayla, Saige, and CJ. We wish them God’s blessings as they move on to Big School. Ms. Susan’s class had five students this year so we thought it would be appropriate to sing Five Little Speckled Frogs. Ms. Louise’s class did an excellent job on their shapes poem. Each student had a speaking part. They were very excited to get to hold the microphone! Ms. Kalla’s class recited the sounds each letter makes and closed with “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”. That song is such a powerful but gentle reminder to me to trust in God’s sovereignty and allow Him to take care of everything.

We’ve had some pretty funny moments and amazing quotes from these little munchkins. One day way back in February, one of the moms told us about a conversation she had with her daughter. The daughter asked her, “Mommy, what’s the big deal about Martin Luther King, Jr.?” She responded, “Well he fought for kids so they could go to school together no matter what they looked like.” The little girl thought about the response for a little bit then said, “Ok that sounds fair,” and with the next breath, “I wish he could’ve fought so we can play with the other kids’ share toys.” Needless to say we were rolling on the floor laughing! Yes, definitely a dream worth fighting for. Another funny moment happened at circle time as we were explaining what Communion is. We were reading the story of the Last Supper and the teacher leading the lesson said, “Communion is when Christians eat bread and drink wine of juice to remember how Jesus died for the whole world.” Then one boy with his hands on his hips turns to his brother, whose name is Christian, and says, “Hey Chris, what’d you go and eat that bread for?!”

Arizona, Phoenix
Heather Hinrichsen
Marge (Leman) Lindenbaum

Mothers, and others who have acted in a similar role, were considered in a special way this month, providing good reason for gratitude and praise. We don’t find a lot in the Bible about mothers, at least while they are engaged in mothering. As Proverbs 31 sets a pretty high bar, it is unlikely anyone would be able to fulfill that description – and it covers more than mothering. There are many mothers mentioned in the Word, of course. Sarah, although we know more about her time BEFORE she was a mother than during; Naomi, but only through her daughter-in-law’s experience – mostly AFTER her mothering was completed; Rebekah, who took playing favorites to an extreme, and lost the companionship of her favorite during her last years; Mary, who might be considered neglectful today, for leaving her 12-year-old son at Jerusalem – maybe nagging or controlling when she encourages him to fix a problem at a friend’s wedding. And then we see her THERE, right there, for his cruel trial and death. Do you think that was a comfort to Jesus? There are others: Jochebed, Bathsheba, Hannah, Elizabeth.

And then there is Eve, the mother of us all. Again, we get a picture of her before she became a mother, and very little after. She had to figure it all out without the benefit of her own mom or other experienced women for help – no books or internet search engines, just her husband … and God. We aren’t told much about the relationship of God with His two first children after the fall. Clearly broken, it seems it was still viable, with ongoing communication between them. She may have had the best Resource of all. God tells us His relationship with us is that of parent-child. We are given only glimpses of God in His relationship with His children, as we are not able to comprehend all that He is or does. We get snapshots of God, but the “big picture” is not available to our finite minds. Similarly, there is likely no example He can record that encompasses the totality of motherhood. So maybe He graciously does not give many “snapshots” of the mothers of...
here this spring from Minneapolis, MN. Jim grew up here, and we are thrilled to have him and his family back in sunny CA!

Celebrating milestones in our church family is always a joy! This month we marked the graduation of Bro. Joseph Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle) from Biola University, a local Christian college, with an international business degree. He shared with the church his thankfulness for God’s faithful provision of a job locally in Pasadena, CA. Seth Klotzle (Bro. Dave and Sis Janelle Klotzle) is graduating from high school and shared that he plans to attend a local community college in the fall.

We joyfully anticipate the summer months which bring visitors to our small church as they vacation in Southern CA! An increase in number is always welcomed whether to our Sunday services or our regional Bible studies at midweek. Worshiping together sparks the greatest joy!

California, Altadena/Los Angeles
Kali Sauder

“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Psalm 16:11

Joy is such a relational emotion! We experience it in our Lord’s presence as we sense His delight in us, His children. We experience it when we are with fellow believers, whether in happy or sad times, as we live life together. Joy is meant to be a shared experience!

With great joy, we welcomed Bro. Jim and Sis. Krissa Klotzle and their three children: Karlina, Ender, and Aeslyn, as they moved here this spring from Minneapolis, MN. Jim grew up here, and we are thrilled to have him and his family back in sunny CA!

Celebrating milestones in our church family is always a joy! This month we marked the graduation of Bro. Joseph Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle) from Biola University, a local Christian college, with an international business degree. He shared with the church his thankfulness for God’s faithful provision of a job locally in Pasadena, CA. Seth Klotzle (Bro. Dave and Sis Janelle Klotzle) is graduating from high school and shared that he plans to attend a local community college in the fall.

We joyfully anticipate the summer months which bring visitors to our small church as they vacation in Southern CA! An increase in number is always welcomed whether to our Sunday services or our regional Bible studies at midweek. Worshiping together sparks the greatest joy!

California, San Diego
Janelle Brewer

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.” Mark 14:22-24

It was a blessing to commemorate Jesus’ death
and suffering through Holy Communion this past month. Our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) was here along with Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO). We appreciate these brothers and their efforts serving our congregation. Also visiting us was Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). May God reward all of them for their service in His vineyard.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, we had a picnic with the Altadena congregation. This is an event that we have come to look forward to and enjoy the fellowship of one another!

During our annual business meeting new responsibilities were given to Bro. Doug Wettstein, Sunday School Superintendent; Bro. Clint Dotterer, trustee; and Bro. Denny Fulop, usher. We thank those who have completed their terms and pray that God will bless them for their efforts over the past few years.

We bid farewell to Bro. Douglas and Sis. Mandy Andrej whose time in San Diego has come to an end. It was a blessing to have them assemble with us for a short time and wish them God’s richest blessings and nearness as they continue on.

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

\textbf{Colorado, Denver}

\textit{Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman}

Greetings of love from Colorado!

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

With great joy we share that Brooke Zarkovacki has begun her walk with the Lord! How thankful we are \textit{“that be which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”}. Phil. 1:6

We are excited and prayerful for our graduates as they embark on new chapters in life. Kana Wiegand and Victoria Martin have completed middle school. Rodrigo Chacon, Demetrius Wiegand and Jesse Zarkovacki have graduated High School. Richard Schmidt has obtained a bachelor’s degree and has found a job near Chicago. We pray that each will find \textit{“The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.”} Ps. 145:18

As a body of believers, we would like to share some testimonies of those who have moved to Denver. Bro. Tom Leman was one of those whom the Lord led to begin the assembling of our brothers and sisters here in Denver. Here is his testimony:

\textbf{Our Move to Denver}

In 1979-80 The Elder Body appointed Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester), Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin) and myself (ministering Bro. Elgin) as a committee to look into the possibility of having Apostolic Christian Church services in the Denver area. We found out that there many in the Denver area that had Apostolic Christian roots as well as a widowed sister from Akron, whose children had moved her out to Colorado Springs.

During the summer of 1980, Apostolic Christian Church services were held every Sunday. We spent two Sundays in Denver. At the summer conference, the Elder Body gave permission to continue the services one Sunday per month. Various ministers volunteered to go out to Denver for these services.

As the summer of 1981 approached, we heard that some of the friends had commented, “It doesn’t feel like our church because it is different people each Sunday.” After praying about it, we decided that instead of teaching summer school or going to summer school and then stopping at Denver on the way out to Oregon and again on the way back, we would spend the summer in the Denver area.

We rented a house for 8 weeks and spent the summer near Denver. Marlene began the practice of having a potluck picnic at our house each Sunday afternoon to which all were invited.

At the 1981 Summer Conference, permission was given to hold services twice each month. As fall approached, we heard of a brother that was going to be going to school at CSU and of two sisters that were moving out...
to Denver. We began praying that the Lord would send a brother out to Denver to provide some leadership for the fledgling group. We knew that as a teacher with 23 years of experience it would not be practical for us to do so.

The Lord is faithful in answering prayers, just not always in the way we expect or desire. After praying for someone to be sent to Denver, I began to feel that the Lord was telling me that it should be our family. I mentioned this to Marlene and she said that she had come to that same conclusion. I told her that I would talk to Bro. Nate Steffen, our elder in Elgin. When I told him what we were feeling, his answer was, “I have been praying that the Lord would send you to Denver”. Our response was, “If the Lord opens up a job we will go”.

One Wednesday evening, the brother that had the sermon read in Joshua of how the Lord told Joshua to have the priests carrying the ark to step into the water and then He would stop the river. That really hit us and made us realize that we were to go to Denver in faith and that the Lord would provide and He did so.

We have been very blessed by being here and have never regretted the move. Our three youngest children were still in school and were unconverted at the time. All three repented and were baptized in Denver. They, as well as our oldest daughter Carol and our oldest son Mike, all found their mates while in Denver.

Our experience has been a constant reminder that God is not limited by our weak vision and understanding and uses all who are willing to further His work. There are several small Churches that would benefit by sincere brothers and sisters moving there. May we all be willing servants of His.

-Bro. Tom Leman

Connecticut, Rockville

Lauren Gottier, Sheila Gerber

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

Liam Jacob was born to Bro. Jake and Sis. Ashlee Virkler. He is welcomed home by big sisters, Anna and Bethany, and grandparents, Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler and Kenny and Sis. Karen Hunt. Bro. Ben and Sis. Christie Carlson rejoice in the birth of Peyton Lily. Her big brother is Colten. Grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Judy Carlson and Sis. Jodi Spielman. May the Lord grant these couples grace as they raise their little ones.


Sis. Charlotte (Jim) Trench’s brother, Ed Ludwig, passed away. He was also the uncle of Sis. Sherry LaPlante (Bro. Leo). Marilyn (Mae) Zahner passed away. She was the wife of Clayton Zahner and sister-in-law to Sis. Ellen and Bro. Gene Kupferschmid. Our prayers and sympathies are with these families.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

The month of May we again did not have caretakers. Many thanks to our Trustees for mowing the lawn. The congregation has taken turns with the cleaning. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgstefen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT), Bro. James Koehl (Sis. Hildy, Morris, MN), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL. Other visitors were from Fairbury, IL, Burlington and Iowa City, IA. Thanks to all who have included us in your plans.
With the warming of the weather, many turn their thoughts to vacations. There are many free attractions in Washington, DC, things for all the family. If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

As a small congregation, we are blessed by the loving and supportive Minister Rotation. This past month we were privileged to have Bro. Tom Leman Denver, CO; Bro. Greg Stieglitz Indianapolis, IN; and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb) Bluffton, IN share God’s Word.

In early May, a picnic with the three Florida churches was hosted in Ft. Myers, providing a beautiful day of fellowship.

Florida, Ft. Myers

Victor Beer

Our hearts were saddened this month to hear that our dear Bro. Mel Getz had passed away. He seemed to always be there when some help was needed, and shared with us his always good nature and disposition. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sis. Margaret, his beloved partner and constant companion, and to their children.

A recent visit to our Midwest Food Bank in Fort Myers was quite an eye opener. Unless one has seen the many recipients receiving the wide variety of food stuffs, etc. such need was never imagined. We pray God will continue to bless our many volunteer workers, and the many recipients of the wide variety of foodstuffs.

We give our congratulations and best wishes to our friends Jason and Amy Green, who were married recently. We pray God’s rich blessings on their life and the two precious little boys that have become so loved in our Sunday School.

We were greatly blessed this last month by visiting Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn) of LaCrosse, IN.

If you are considering a move to the Naples/Fort Myers area and would like to talk to someone about it, please call Bro. Marvin Steffen at 239-353-0508. He will help you gather information on anything from serving in a small church to job opportunities and housing in the area.

The New Beginnings

At The New Beginnings, we strive to assist single mothers in creating a better life for themselves. We start with the foundation that life without Christ is unmanageable and only by acknowledging and following Him can we do any good. Our ministry expects hard work and discipline from the moms that live with us and the second weekend in May saw the hard work and determination of one of our moms payoff.

Miss Amey came to us in 2012 with her two boys, Isaac and Kendall. Amey’s past was about what you’d expect from someone who hadn’t made the best choices in her life. Her parents weren’t very interested in teaching her and from little on up she had a hard row to hoe. Recently, we were discussing with the moms what they saw their family like down the road and Amey confided, “I don’t really know what ‘family’ is. I’ve never really had one.” You see, even after two and a half years with us, we were still breaking down old barriers.

Despite her rocky past, Amey is an overcomer. This past weekend, Amey graduated with a double associate’s degree with honors.

Amey is one to keep her emotions close to the vest, but when she walked into her graduation ceremony, she was absolutely beaming. You could feel the pride she had in her accomplishment, and we were proud of her. This in itself is a tremendous feat for a young lady like Amey, but the goodness of the weekend did not end there.

After graduating on Friday evening Amey, along with family and friends, met at a local Christian church to witness her marriage to a wonderful, upstanding man. The two were truly married before God as the ceremony focused around the three-fold cord and uniting under the banner of Christ. It was an emotional moment to see the culmination of Amey’s hard work and perseverance to break the chains of her past and reach for a new future.
People may look at Amey and The New Beginnings and think, “What a wonderful thing they did for her”. But, that’s the secret. We didn’t do anything spectacular. The New Beginnings simply provides an opportunity. In essence we just open a door, but the moms have to walk through it. We are so thankful for Amey and her example as God has blessed us through her and we look forward to seeing Him continue to bless her.

**Florida, Sarasota**  
**Kim Ott**

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

We are so thankful to know that God has extended his peace to our convert, April Sabo (Jeff). We look forward to hearing her testimony and witnessing her baptism in the near future. What a blessing and encouragement for our congregation to see God continue His work in our loved one’s heart and soul.

To commemorate the National Day of Prayer, our congregation joined together for a special evening of prayer for our church, community, nation, and world. Although, we as individuals practice and appreciate prayer in our everyday life, it was a blessing for all of us to spend an hour together in communion with our Lord. We are so thankful for the freedom of religion that has been granted to us in this country.

We were grateful to have Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) share with us God’s Word this month. May God bless the words that were spoken.

**Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta**  
**Lexi Knapp, Elise Waldbeser**

“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. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”  
1 Cor. 11:24-25

We were blessed to take Communion this past month and were thankful for the service of Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). Taking Communion is always a precious time of being reminded of our Savior’s shed blood and undeserved sacrifice for us!

Also, we are excited to celebrate a graduate this year!! Bro. Cody West (Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie) has completed high school. We are thankful for what he adds to our church and wish him God’s blessings in the next phase of his life.

It is wonderful to see all the changes in our church remodel!! The carpet was recently installed and we are nearly done, aside from a few small jobs, final cleanup, and we are also waiting on the pews to arrive. We have been so blessed by the all the volunteer help and are looking forward to be worshipping in a finished church. If there is anyone coming to the area, we would love to see you!

Our new address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA, 30269. However, please call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Richard Aberle 678.364.0507.)

**Illinois, Belvidere**  
**Krista Anliker, Shayla Steffen**

“Only a boy named David,  
Only a little sling,  
Only a boy named David,  
But he could pray and sing;  
Only a boy name David,  
Only a little brook,  
Only a boy named David,  
But five little stones he took.  
And one little stone went in the sling,  
And the sling went ’round and ’round,  
And one little stone went in the sling,  
And the sling went ’round and ’round;  
And ’round and ’round and ’round  
And ’round and ’round and ’round,  
And one little stone went up in the air,  
And the giant came tumbling down.”

Many of our children enjoy singing this song and tend to focus on the defeat of the terrible Goliath as he came tumbling down. Who should we focus on? Who is really the main character in this story?

“God chose a boy named David  
God chose a little sling  
God chose a boy named David  
To learn to pray and sing”
God used a boy named David
And five little stones he took
Then one little stone went into
the sling
And the sling went ‘round and ‘round
Then one little stone went into
the sling
And the sling went ‘round and ‘round
And ‘round and ‘round
And God led the stone way up in
the air…
And the giant came tumblin’ down!”
-Alfred B. Smith

God’s blessing and our thanks
to Elder Bro. Duane Rocke as he
joined us for a weekend and then
brought forth God’s word on
Sunday. Bro. Duane facilitated
a Saturday evening of discussing
God’s plan for our little church
here in Belvidere.

God has a plan for each of us,
young or old. May we be willing
to listen and heed and if need
be, face giants like “only a boy
named David”.

Illinois, Bloomington-
Normal
Sarah Maurer, Terri Huber

Spring is always an exciting
time of year as families celebrate
the accomplishments of their
children. It is always a blessing
to see young adults with so
much potential and promise. In
Bloomington, we celebrate with
the families of Rebecca Anderson
(Bro. Randy and Sis. Ann), Austin
Graf (Paul), Lindsey Kieser
(Bro. Paul and Sis. Karen), Sis.
Olivia Robinson (Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz), Katelyn Sauder (Bro.
Phil and Sis. Kathy), Bro. Isaac
Schumacher (Bro. Greg and Sis.
Shelle), Steffenie Schwartz (Russ
and Nancy), and Stephanie Fehr
(Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer) who
have all graduated from various
high schools.

There are also those who have
gradated from college and are
continuing to grow where God has
placed them. Bro. Alec Gramm
(Bro. Brad, dec. and Sis. LuAnn)
has graduated from Illinois State
University with a Bachelor degree
in Biological Sciences. He will
be studying at the University of
Illinois to earn his Master’s in
Library and Information Sciences.
Kimberly Diller (Bro. Sam and
Sis. Teri Wenger) graduated
from Illinois Wesleyan with a
Bachelor of Science in Math
and Risk Management. She is
working for Country Financial
in Bloomington with claims data
analysis. Chris Kaufmann (Bro.
Jim and Sis. Nancy) graduated
with two degrees, Accounting
and Finance, which he will use
working for Sikich, LLP. Christian
Winger (Gil and Sis. Anita)
also graduated with a degree in
Computer Science from North
Central College. Through God’s
strength and promise, each one
has been able to travel the path
God has placed them on. It is
through their accomplishments we
remember that we each are blessed
so that we can be a blessing to
those God has placed around us.

We are excited to announce
the welcoming of two new
ministers to the Bloomington
pulpit. Bro. David (Sis. Tara)
Prevo and Bro. Andy (Sis. Marie)
Kaufmann. We have truly enjoyed
each family’s perspective as they
minister to our church. Our
thoughts and prayers are also
with them as they begin this new
journey we believe God has led
them to.

Our church family has had
opportunity to praise God and
to grow as we welcome two
new little ones into our hearts.
John and Erin Martin welcome
Brynnley Rose, making Bro. Curt and Sis. Elma Fleming proud grandparents. Also, Bro. Clint and Sis. Jami Kaeb, as well as their six children, welcome Friday Martin from Uganda. We are also thankful for safe travels as Friday found his way into their hearts. Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger of Gridley, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda of Bloomington are the happy grandparents to little Friday.

We are thankful for the changing seasons and look forward to seeing how God will continue to work in all of our lives in the coming summer.

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Sandi Joos

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:20

Graduation is a time to reflect on the past and make choices for the future. As our graduates look to the future, may they remember the teachings of God’s Word. Graduating from high school this year are Anna Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel), Steve Hausmann (Bro. Fred and Sis. Sue), Samantha Kieser (Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly), and Bro. Morgan Pyles (Bro. Troy and Sis. Heather).

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.” Proverbs 18:22

We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Sis. Lana Stoller and Bro. Ernie Wiegand (Eureka, IL). Sis. Lana’s parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie and Bro. Ernie’s parents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (Eureka, IL). We pray for God’s continued nearness and blessing as they plan their life together.

Kendra Baer (Sis. Janna) and Jason LaRen were recently joined in marriage. We pray for the Lord’s blessing on their marriage.

We were thankful to have Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) with us to assist our home ministers in bringing the Word to us this past month.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:8

Hospital patients the past month were Sis. Tonya Joos (Bro. Tyler), Bro. Ray Klumpp, and Linda Hoffman. We lift them up in prayer.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Fehr

Hello from Champaign-Urbana!

This month our visiting ministers were Bro. Randy Mogler, Bro. Tom Waldbeser, and Bro. Marshall Heinold. We are thankful for their willingness to share the Word.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Sarah Eisenmann welcomed their first child, Dale Allen, on April 25. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann from Chicago and Allen and Rita Drake from El Paso, IL. It’s good to see our church family growing!

This year we have two high school students graduating: Mackenzie Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie) and Jeremy Walder (Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth Walder). We wish them the best as they move into a new phase of life.

Food for Spiritual Thought:

“Without somehow destroying me in the process, how could God reveal himself in a way that would leave no room for doubt? If there were no room for doubt, there would be no room for me.” F. Buechner

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

Greetings from Chicago!

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). We appreciate their labors of love. In April we were blessed with a topical Bible study on “God’s Way,” presented by Bro. Greg Rassi. In May we held an all-church singing shower for Bro. Michael Luthi and Sis. Julie Eisenmann.

Spring has brought several exciting changes to Chicago! We are glad to announce the arrival of two new babies. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Sarah Eisenmann welcomed Dale Allen on April 25, first grandchild of Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann and first great-grandchild of Sis. Judy Eisenmann. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Sarah currently live in Champaign, IL, and plan to move
to the Chicago area this summer. Bro. Shayne and Sis. Emily Fehr welcomed Eva Kathleen on May 11. Excited siblings are Brady and Madelyn.

On May 16 we celebrated with Brant Westfall and Audrey Harris as they were joined in marriage. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their life together. Brant is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall.

Bro. Joe Darlington had knee surgery in April. Sis. Lois Metzger had surgery to remove a tumor in May. Our prayers are with these loved ones and we wish them God’s healing mercies.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Sandy Rudin, Janie Waldbeser

We were thankful to have been blessed with God’s precious Word brought to us by His servants, Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN). May they feel God’s blessings.

Sis. Grace Bauer is residing at Heritage Health Center in Hoopeston, IL for a time. Sis. Wilma Walder is dealing with some medical issues. We pray God can strengthen and keep them in His loving care.

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

Graduation time is upon us. We wish to congratulate our high school graduates: Amanda Eisenmann (Bro. Steve & Sis. Cheryl), Jared Kaeb (Bro. Max & Sis. Beth), Reagan Walder (Bro. Steve & Sis. Kathy), Devon Laubscher (Bro. Walt & Sis. Sylvia), Jennifer Stock (Elder Bro. Tom & Sis. Karol), and Karla Schick (Bro. Bill & Sis. Joan- CVE Magdalena, MX).

Also, Stephanie Kaeb (Bro. Eric & Sis. LouAnn) has completed her college degree. May God be their Guide as they put their trust in Him for their future. God will steer them in the right direction as long as they keep Him as their Steering Wheel!

“Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.”
Hymns of Zion, #85

Our thoughts go to our loving fathers this time of the year as Father’s Day approaches. We are thankful for wonderful examples of those in our lives who we look up to and think of those who have gone on before us. May we not only give praise to our earthly fathers, but also to our Heavenly Father who has given to us life eternal through His Son Jesus Christ.

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

“Love of Jesus, love of brethren, Heal our souls from ev’ry smart! Grant to us Thy purest motives And a pure, unspotted heart.”
Zion’s Harp #72, vs 9

Unity is the word that comes to mind when contemplating the past month for the Congerville church. We rejoice in the blessings of our brotherhood and of a loving Savior, who so willingly supplies our every need.

We were united as brethren as we took part in Holy Communion and a special thanks to Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) for assisting Bro. Rick on this night. Having Holy Communion several weeks past Easter helped keep our hearts and minds focused on our Savior’s redeeming love and sacrifice for us. It is so easy to move on from the Easter season with joy, but it is still important to be constantly reminded of the source of that joy.

The Detroit Choir blessed our congregation as they visited following the Midwest Gospel Sing. Having so many brothers and sisters come from far, many we had never met, was another reminder of the precious gift we have within our brotherhood— that we can feel united in spirit with what the world would view as total strangers. We pray that all would feel welcome to worship with us whenever their path takes them near our little church. We appreciate our visitors more than words can express!

Our Sis. Hannah Dietrich and Bro. Luke Anliker (Eureka) were united as one in the Lord on May 10. Their parents are Bro. John Dietrich of Congerville and Renee Dietrich of Washington and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka). Our prayers of love and blessing are extended to them and their families as they walk the path of life, hand in hand.

Two little boys have blessed
the homes of two dear couples this month. Miles D. was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Zimmerman. Also thankful for his safe arrival are grandparents Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp and Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman.

Tyler and Dominique Dietrich also welcomed their first son, Liam Ray, into the world this month. Grandparents of this new little blessing are Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich and Greg and Tracy Lara. May God be with these dear couples as they adjust to parenthood and enjoy their precious little boys!

We are thankful for visiting Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Tom Leman (Denver), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), (Elder) Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville), and Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley). We wish to thank these dear brothers for their love and service to our church.

**Illinois, Elgin**

**Amy Gasser**

We thank Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL) for ministering the Word during the past month. On Wednesday, May 6, Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) conducted an all-church topical presentation entitled “Fear is Easy - Love is Hard.”

Bro. Howie (Sis. Pat) Schifferer and Bro. Bill Wewetzer were recent hospital patients.

Congratulations to our high school graduates, including Quin Martin (Tony and Kenda), Bro. Nathan Moser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne), Tyler Schambach (Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee), and Ezra Steffen (Mary).

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

**Illinois, Eureka**

**Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke**

We were served this month by Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dana Neiman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). We were thankful too for visits by Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest) and Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), as they also shared the Word.

Another sweet little girl arrived to the family of Tim and Regina Sinn, as Rachel Arlene was born April 18. She is welcomed by Michael, Jordan, Cody, and Rosalie. Grandparents are Charles and Karen Sinn of Eureka and David and Faith Yoder of Oskaloosa, KS.

The church shared a special uplifting weekend April 25 and 26. Harrison Frank (Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine), Brandon Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Gail), and Braden Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky) shared their testimonies and were baptized.

The first Saturday of May was again a heartwarming morning for all who could attend the Ladies Brunch. We offer many thanks to those whose efforts made it possible.

The wedding of Bro. Luke Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Hannah Dietrich (Bro. John, Congerville, and Renae, Washington) was May 10 in Congerville. We wish them God’s blessings and direction as they move to Chicago, where Bro. Luke will continue his medical studies.

Amid all the blessings of the month came some heartaches. Our condolences to Bro. Joel (Sis. Sonia) Banwart on the death of his sister, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine, dec.) Schmidt of West Bend, IA.

Our sympathy also goes to Bro. Alan (Sis. Nathalia) Getz on the death of his brother, Bro. Mel (Sis. Margaret) Getz of Peoria, IL. Our sympathies as well to his sisters-in-law, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Sam, dec.) Blunier and Sis. Charlene (Bro. Bob) Schumacher.

We were also saddened by the death of Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Don) Gudeman, and extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Don and to her sister, Sis. Gladys (Bro. Sam, dec.) Schmidgall. Her cheerful personality will be missed by her
family and by many others.

Bro. Alan (Sis. Nathalia) Getz was in the hospital, but is now recuperating at home.

Note of thanks:
A very special thank you to all who shared their time with me on my 80th birthday. Also, a special thank you to our children who did the planning, and thanks to everyone for all the gifts and cards. This is all a result of the love of God. May God bless each and every one. Bro. Ed Knecht

Illinois, Fairbury
Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller

Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Steidinger welcomed their fourth son, Xander Martin, on May 5. Zackary, Tanner, and Ryker are his big brothers. Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH) are his grandparents. May God grant them much grace and wisdom as they raise their boys.

We bid farewell to Sis. Marge Kaisner who passed away on May 8. We extend our deepest sympathy to her dear husband, Bro. Merle, to her children: Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid (Bro. Al, Forrest, IL), Robert (Cherie), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Donna), Don (Leona), Gwen Knapp, and Sis. LeAnn Kaeb, and to her siblings: Bro. Glen Zimmerman (Sis. Mildred, Forrest, IL), Bro. Al Zimmerman (Sis. Melba, Forrest, IL), Bob Zimmerman (Judy, Normal, IL), and Sis. Betty Hodel (Roanoke, IL) as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We thank Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN) and Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL) for ministering God’s Word and pray that He will richly bless them. We were also blessed to have Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) here on May 15 to give a topical exhortation on Time Accountability. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

Sis. Melanie Teubel (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Bud Kelson (Sis. Sharon) are recovering from surgical procedures. Bro. Glenn Fehr (Sis. Kathryn) recently spent time in the hospital. May God heal and provide for each one.

Our high school graduates are: Layne Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Kendra), Wade Fehr (Bro. Les and Sis. Sally), Matt Kemnetz (Bill and Heather), Arthur Moser (Sis. Julia and late Bro. Doug), Gideon Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Sis. Myrna Moser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara), Lucas Perry (Randy and Hope), Ryan Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth), and Sis. Kelly Waldbeser (Jim and Sis. Renae).

Bro. Timothy Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy), Bro. Thane Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), and Sis. Tiffany Zehr (Bro. Reid) have finished their college studies and also graduated this month. We wish God’s blessings to each one and pray they will seek God’s guidance and direction in their future endeavors.

The weekend of August 29-30 we will be hosting a commemoration in recognition of 50 years since our church building was erected and dedicated. Anyone who previously attended the Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church is welcome to attend. More details and RSVP information are posted in the News & Notices section in the back of this issue.

Illinois, Forrest
Molly Zimmerman
Shannon Brown

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Luke 4:4

We are rejoicing with the angels that Erin Mueller (Bro. Stan & Sis. Kristen) and Jenna (Eric) Bachman have made the decision to live by the Word of God and not by bread alone. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they turn their hearts to the Lord.

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

Many thanks to the ministers who visited us and brought forth the Word of God. They are Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Dana Nieman (Remington, IN), Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) and Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL). May God bless you.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to our Sis. Wanda and Bro. Alfred Kupferschmid and family at the loss of her mother, Sis. Marge (Bro. Merle) Kaisner (Fairbury, IL). Our sympathies
also to Sis. Marge’s brothers of our congregation, Bro. Glen (Sis. Mildred) Zimmerman and Bro. Allen (Sis. Melba) Zimmerman. May God be the great Comforter to all who held her dear to their hearts.

Bro. Jesse, Sis. Karla and Wren Zimmerman will be missed as they have moved to Gateway Woods (Leo, IN) to be alternate houseparents. We pray they feel God’s nearness as they begin their new responsibilities. Thank you, Sis. Karla, for being the Silver Lining reporter. We appreciate your labors.

Our church family was blessed with two new baby girls this month. Karli is excited to welcome home her new sister, Jade Carol Steidinger. Thankful parents and grandparents are Bro. Clint and Sis. LeAnne Steidinger, Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger, and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol Edelman. First-time parents, Bro. Jaylin and Sis. Molly Teubel, are thankful for the arrival of their daughter, Elowen Sage. Elowen’s grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman (Congerville, IL).

We continue to keep Bro. Alan (Sis. Marcia) Gerber and his family in our prayers as he has been in the hospital treating pneumonia and some heart rejection.

**Illinois, Gridley**

*Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey*

We offer love and congratulations to Justin Fehr and Bonnie Martin on their May 16 wedding. We share in the blessing of two lives becoming one as Bro. Fritz Hinrichsen and Sis. Amy Folkerts were married on May 17.

What a joy to see Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand and their children as they are visiting for a while before they return to their missionary home in Zambia. We cherish this time with them. We also want to remember Sis. Erin Davis in Jamaica, and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan Plattner in Haiti as they continue to work for God in foreign countries.

> “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;” 2 Corinthians 1:3

Bro. Dave (Sis. Pat) Kuntz’s mother, Maureen Kuntz, suffered a heart attack and we seek prayers of God’s healing hand on her behalf.

We sorrow for the loss of our dear Joe Brady who passed away April 24. He was the brother of Sheri (Justin) Zobrist. Bro. Herman (Sis. Sarah) Glueck’s brother-in-law, Dan Rusch, was killed in a farm machinery accident on May 4. Please keep these families in your prayers during this difficult time.

We want to thank Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis Jane, Tremont, IL), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL) and Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL) for visiting and being used by God to share His Word.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

Perry Klopfenstei

It is a marvelous thing to behold the crops as they emerge from beneath the soil and ascend upward to bear fruit in due time. By the time this is read, planting will have been completed here in the Gridley area.

One of our ministers recently talked about the end times, and offered various insights and perspectives. Perhaps one of the best doctrines of the end times is “readiness.” Each of us should be ready to meet the Lord, because His coming is not known to mortal men, and He warns He will come as a thief in the night, and in the twinkling of an eye. The times are perilous indeed.

The mother of Sis. Val Funk (Bro. Bill) passed away on May 18 at age 86. She was Shirley Brockwell of Flanagan. We offer our sympathies to Sis. Val and Bro. Bill.

Our church remodeling continues, and it’s a big project. We have been taking our noon lunch in the Fellowship Hall, and in a few weeks our services will be held in that facility for awhile.

We offer our sympathies to Lorraine Clark who recently lost her husband, Ervin. They have attended our church during the past several years. We appreciated the good-natured ways of Ervin, who was a nice visitor. Also, Lorraine is now recovering from a broken leg.

Sis. Dorothy Ringger is recovering from surgery. Bro.
Orlan Miller is receiving chemo treatments. And Sis. Mary Ringger is receiving treatment for pain as she suffers from cancer. We offer sympathies to Sis. Emmy Steffen over the loss of her sister, Sis. Pauline Rocke of Eureka. These women were sisters to deceased Elder Leroy Huber of Eureka.

“One life, ‘twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”
-C. T. Studd, 1860-1931

Illinois, Peoria
Pam Fritzenmeier
We are so thankful to report a new convert, Norvin Schneider.

Bro. Mike Wiegand passed away April 25. He is survived by one sister, Phyllis (Dale) Call. Bro. Melvin (Sis. Margaret) Getz passed away May 5. Sis. Caroline Haworth, Glendale, AZ, passed away May 4. She was Bro. Willis (Sis. Lois) Ehnle’s sister. May God comfort all these families.

Jay and Tara (Meister) Brenner were blessed with a son on April 29. Ezra John was welcomed home by his four big sisters, mom and dad. Grandparents are Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister and John and Cheryl Brenner of Spartanburg, PA.

Clay Michael Menold was born prematurely May 7 and is hospitalized in serious condition. His parents are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Shari. He has two siblings, Ayla and Gage. Grandparents include Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold, Princeville, and Steve and Vicki Martin, Goodfield. Please do pray for this family.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter’s infant daughter, Aleah, is undergoing testing for muscle disorders. Others in need of prayers are Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Bro. Willis (Sis. Gloria) Hunzicker, Sis. Ida Schwenk, Sis. Nanette David, Mary Funk, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Mary See, and Andrea (Aaron) Staley.

Bro. Zach Knobloch (Magdalena, MX) and his 5-year-old daughter, Darilis, recently assembled with us for two weeks. During his visit, Bro. Zach shared his family’s plan to leave the mission field and to make their home in central Illinois by the end of the year. In addition to Darilis and one-year old Angus, Bro. Zach and his wife, Sis. Daniela, are adopting two of Sis. Daniela’s younger sisters, Belem (15) and Belinda (13). They ask for prayers during the adoption process and that they will feel God’s nearness as they seek housing and employment, and transition to a different culture in a new family environment. Bro. Zach also requested prayer for the staff and children at Casa Vida y Esperanza.


Illinois, Princeville
Gloria White, Renee Herrmann
We were grateful to retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL) for sharing the Word of life this month. May God richly bless him for his many efforts over the years.

The following seniors recently graduated from high school: Garrett Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene), Sis. Laura Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn), Luke Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise), Dylan Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), JaNae Knobloch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne), Tiana Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri), Leif Phillips and Caleb Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann). We wish them God’s blessings in their next step in life.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah Martin were blessed with the safe arrival of Cailyn Brei. She was welcomed home by Serenity, Brady, Derrek, Aleah and Kinley. Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Marlin and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann are the grandparents.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland are thankful for another grandson. Raj was added to the family of Shankar and Tiffany Annamalai. Babies are a blessing to everyone.

Illinois, Roanoke
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder
St. Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

Sheryl (Herb) Blunier of Metamora passed away on April 20. She was a sister-in-law of Bro. Wally & Sis. Faye Blunier.

Joe Brady went to be with
the Lord on April 24. Joe had assembled with our congregation for some time and was a blessing to us. His survivors include sisters: Pam (Vince) Hummel of Roanoke, Sheri (Justin) Zobrist of Congerville, Lori (Adolf) Walters of Washington, and brothers: Christopher (Catie) Brady of Irvington, NY, Jeffrey (fiancé Alexis Boykin) Brady of Bloomington, Mike Brady of Atlantic, IA and eleven nieces & nephews. Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) had the funeral service for Joe who had formerly worshipped with the Goodfield congregation.

Bro. Melvin (Sis. Margaret ) Getz (Peoria) went to his eternal home on May 5. He was a brother to Jerry (Raylene) Getz and a brother-in-law to Sis. Jan Getz. Sis. Marge (Bro. Merle) Kaisner (Fairbury) went to be with the Lord on May 8. She was a sister to Sis. Betty Hodel. We offer our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Proverbs 20:7 “The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”

Bro. Justin Koch (Washington) gave a presentation “Growing Children through the Seasons of Life” at our Fellowship Hall on April 22. Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto) was our guest minister on May 10. Then on May 13, Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron) served us on the pulpit. We thank these brothers for their profound and timely exhortations.

The Ladies Spring Breakfast was held at our Fellowship Hall on April 25. A lovely meal was served followed by a program which included music by a women’s trio from Morton. We thank all those involved who made it a wonderful day!

Proverbs 18:22 “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.”

Laura Schwind (Bro. Dennis & Sis. Rita) married Jarrett Heintz of Indianapolis on April 25. His parents are Mike & Gayle Heintz of Greenwood, IN. Annie Hodel (Sis. Joyce) is engaged to be married to Tory Wentworth of LeRoy. His parents are Dennis & Kathy Wentworth also of LeRoy. We pray for God’s blessings on these dear couples as they take this important step.

On May 3, Bro. Tim Hohulin, Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Frank Sauder dedicated our church service to Bro. Scott & Sis. Mandy Yordy and their daughters who are serving in Haiti with MEBSH. The Yordy’s were able to listen in to our service that day. The Sunday School classmates of Brianna, Chloe & Gabby also joined us. We then sang a song dedicated to the Yordy’s. It was a privilege to have them worship with us!

St. Luke 11:1 “…Lord, teach us to pray…”

On May 6, the Prairie Choristers and our Youth Choir presented a program commemorating the National Day of Prayer. It was a beautiful and stimulating evening of praise and worship as we invoked the Lord’s blessing upon those in need, our nation, missionaries, and the lost.

Bro. Gary & Sis. Elna Wettstein and Bro. Don & Sis. Colleen Leman welcomed a grandson, Harvey Arthur born on April 26 to Bro. Kirby & Sis. Ellie Leman (Remington). Bro. Rich Isaia became a first-time grandparent on April 27 when Oliver Isaia was born to Bro. Josh & Sis. Kaitlin Ramsier who are serving in the Dominican Republic. Bro. Don & Sis. Colleen Leman have been twice-blessed as grandparents. Kaylee Mae was born to Jeremiah & Heidi Edwards of ElPaso on May 2. Violet Eleanor arrived to bless the home of Bro. Tyler & Sis. Sara Schick on May 14. Her big sister is Evie and her thankful grandparents are Bro. Dan & Sis. Kim Maher and Bro. Bill & Sis. Joan Schick (Magdalena). We are so thankful for these precious additions to these families and pray for God’s wisdom and blessing for their parents as they raise them in the admonition of the Lord.

Bro. Jonathan Hodel, Bro. Greg Moser, and Bro. Brad Sauder were elected Bible Class teachers. Bro. Jason Rassi, Bro. Robey Shuck, Bro. Matt Sauder, and Bro. Sam Wettstein were chosen as intermediate Sunday School teachers. We thank all those who serve and teach our students the ways of the Lord and pray for
God’s blessing upon them.

Romans 10:10: “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Juliane Wilson, mother of Sis. Brooke Marcille, gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on May 16-17. We rejoice with Sis. Juliane and pray for God’s continued peace and blessing upon her.

James 5:15: “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.”

We want to lift up in prayer Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Sawyer Kaufman, Sis. Chris (Bro. Bob) Hartter, Betty Hodel, Leslie (Susan) Wettstein, Bro. Jim (Sis. Annie) Leman, and Bro. Calvin (Sis. Jan) Moser as they deal with health issues. May our Lord be their strength and shield, and may He grant healing and strength according to His will.

Illinois, Tremont

Teresa Rowell, Janice Sauder

“The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.”

Proverbs 29:7

With this verse Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) introduced his topical lesson, “The Poor”. We went away from the evening with the encouragement to be thankful, content and compassionate in our outlook on life. Our other visiting ministers this month were Bros. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), and Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL). We thank these brothers, and wish them God’s continued blessing and grace.

On April 26, our Bible Class was privileged to host the teachers and Bible Class students from Forrest, IL and Bradford, IL. We thank each one for coming! That same evening, our sophomore, junior, and seniors, along with their parents, invited our church to a presentation of their mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico. May the bonds of love and fellowship and spiritual blessings they shared together continue be an inspiration.

Our congratulations to Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle, at the birth of Hailee Jo. She is the daughter of Rodney and Staci Aberle (Morton, IL), and baby sister of Micah, Austin, Brinlee and Ayden.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Kaiser at the death of her sister, Diana Van Meter. May God truly send His comfort in this time of sorrow.

We pray for good recoveries for our loved ones who were in the hospital and/or had surgeries. These include: Sis. Carolyn Bolliger, Bro. Dean Beutel (Sis. Karen), and Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna).

We congratulate our graduating high school seniors. They include: Bro. Josiah Koch (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sandi), Hannah Oswald (Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle), Shelby Rose (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marla), Bro. Stoner Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail), Bro. Corbin Steiner and Bro. Trent Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val), Sis. Megan Wagenbach (Bro. Marv & Sis. Paula), and Holly Zuercher (Sis. Anne). May each one daily seek God’s blessing and direction for his/her life—and find true success!

Illinois, Washington

Marlene Prather, Jodi Fehr

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”

Prov. 31:10

We are so thankful for a day set aside to honor our Christian mothers. We appreciate their many prayers, advice and love throughout the years. May our great God continue to bless each one.

May God richly bless Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria) for our monthly Bible study. We are thankful that he was willing to share.

Our church was saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Larry Leman’s (Sis. Marilyn) sister, Shirley Johns (Craig) of Woodland Hills, CA. May the family feel God’s comfort at this time.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Herrmann are joyful in the engagement of their daughter, Haley, to Eric Kolowski. As they prepare for the their upcoming wedding, may we keep them in our prayers.

Sis. Angie Schrock (Bro. Jason) has recently had surgery. May God help her through this
Indiana, Bluffton  
Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer

Does Jesus Christ have power over your delays and distractions? Ministering Bro. Ron Kipfer reminded us that we have all been given a “ministry of interruptions”. God doesn’t usually show us His plan by the week or month, or even by the day, but He calls us to listen to His voice moment by moment. Thank you to all of our ministers who continue to serve us faithfully!! We appreciated the visit of Bro. Craig (Sis. Jacki) Stickling of Peoria.


What a blessed interruption to the life of sin – when a soul answers God’s call to repentance! We rejoice with Ed Emerick and Kevin Miller.

Bro. Nick Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) of Bluffton North and Sis. Amber Steffen (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia) have announced their engagement. We pray the Lord will bless them as they serve Him as one!

Interruptions are a way of life when a new baby enters our homes, sometimes bringing frustration that we can’t “get it all done”, and always bringing tiredness and adjustment. Yet God is faithful to grow us through those times and what sweet blessings are ours! Bro. Lance, Sis. Sarah, Maeley and Tessa Fiechter welcome Coy Matthew into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly Reinhard. Kade Michael Grube has blessed the home of Bro. Justin, Sis. Kelsey, Cole and Trevin. His grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda Grube and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Compton. The Drayer family, Bro. Joel, Sis. Erin, Brett, Emily, Lynne and Ella, rejoice with the addition of Hadassah Rose. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer and Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda Gerber have added their first grandchild with the birth of Lyle Dean McAfee, son of Andrew and Autumn McAfee.

It seems there are always a lot of different activities going on in our large congregation. We never have a reason to feel we aren’t needed! Our young group hosted their bi-annual “Love One Another” supper and singing for singles of all ages. The intergenerational fellowship is priceless! We enjoyed hearing the Bluffton – Bluffton North combined choir sing. “Persecuted Church Night” was held on several evenings. We were able to better identify with our suffering brothers and sisters as we quietly and quickly made our way through the alley and into the back door marked with a fish symbol. After we gave the password, Emmanuel, we were admitted to a dark room with many assembled brethren.

On Sunday, April 26, Bro. Joe and Sis. Lisa Leman informed us on their upcoming missionary work in Bible translation.

And we are so thankful for the parenting seminar that Bro. Craig Stickling and Bro. Brian Sutter presented!

“Be true; be true! The Lord is by thee standing; Joyful with Him at last will be the ending!
Tho hard the strife and long the conflict be, Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be!
Be true; be true! For God has crowns awaiting, Wherewith forever He’ll be compensating; But only if in pain and in distress, Unto the death we prove our faithfulness.
Be true; be true! If guard we are not keeping, Then we are lost, for Satan is not sleeping; And if we are not watchful at the post, That which we once had won will all be lost.

“Be true; be true! Those who in all temptation have proven true, deserve our commendation.
Were there no test how should it proven be, who weak, who strong, who true or untrue be?
O faithful Lord, Thy love and truth sincerely, Thou dost bestow on us each day so clearly, So grant that we also each day anew, Become more faithful, loving, kind, and true!”

Zion’s Harp # 172
Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

A simple prayer of passion: ‘Lord, give me a burning, churning, yearning for turning, learning, and discerning’.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Kyann Schwartz welcomed their third child on April 6. Grant Eugene joins sister Delaney and brother Joel at home. We wish them many blessings with their new addition.

We, as a church family, were able to partake of Communion this month. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter assisted Elder Bro. Steve Ringger in this special Easter Communion. We were encouraged to remember the wonderful things our Savior, Jesus Christ did for us. We also thank these visiting brothers and their families for sharing with us.

The engagement of Bro. Nick Steffen (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori) to Sis. Amber Steffen (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia) was announced on May 3. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their new lives together.

Ed Emerick, who has been attending the adult/graduate class for the past several months, has made a beginning in repentance. We are holding Ed up in our prayer.

Truman Baumgartner passed away on May 14. He is survived by his dear wife, Marge, and five daughters: Cynthia (Phil) Hoover, Joan Brown, Anne (Mike) Cayot, Lois Baumgartner, and Ruth (Todd) Jones and a son, John (Tammy) Baumgartner. We will be keeping the family of this dear brother in our prayers.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

On a recent Wednesday evening, we assembled at the Fellowship Center and enjoyed being reminded of the labors of love that so many are a part of at Gateway Woods. We heard from an Administrator, Houseparents, and young people who reside there. Our thanks to all of them for sharing with us!

When testimonies of faith are shared, we all receive a blessing. We witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Brothers David and Brandon Putt (sons of Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna Putt) We are thankful that ministering Bros. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) were here to visit and assist with the weekend.

Austin and Stacy Metzger welcomed a precious baby, Noah Benjamin, into their family on April 27. Noah’s brothers and sister are Colton, Logan and Kinsley. The happy grandparents are Kris and Danny Johns of Rensselaer, IN, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger.

Hospital patients this past month have been Bro. Lester Huber (Sis. Glendoris), Elmer Bucher, and Sisters Diane Clevenger (Jon) and Luella Pelsy. We pray that they all experience God’s special grace and nearness, and that health may be restored, according to His perfect will.

We extend our loving sympathy to Sister Mary Ann Gutwein (Bro. Glenn), as her sister, Mildred Shopola, who resided near Boston, MA, passed from this life recently. May the Lord comfort and give peace.

On Wednesday evening, May 13, we enjoyed hearing poems, songs, and a testimony of faith, along with honoring our high school graduates at the annual graduation program. Graduates are Ashton Barkho (Danny and Becky Barkho), Leia Hertzler (Janet Hertzler), Bro. Alan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine), Lukas Owens (Jody Owens and Mary Craig), Bro. Thomas Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna) and Cassidy Tanner (Glenn and Darla Tanner). Proverbs 3:5&6 are wonderful verses for the graduates to live by.

Sister Erica Putt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna) is a college graduate this year. Our congratulations and wishes for God’s guidance and nearness to all, is our prayer.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Nancy Pfeifer, Sandy Lichtle

God is so wonderful, and He asks us to show His Love by spreading it around. That is what we pray was accomplished when we hosted Indy Outreach on April 18 and 19. God blessed twice: the people and projects who were helped, and the 130 young people who showed God’s love through the testimony of their work. Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringger
formerly of Indianapolis and now of Leo, IN shared their testimony with the young people that weekend also.

We were so thankful to hear that Ireland Beebe, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie, has found peace with God. Also finding a need for Christ in her life is Brittaney Lintner of Indianapolis. God bless and guide them both in this wonderful journey of faith.

Serving us this month from the pulpit were: Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) on May 3. Also, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) was here on Wednesday evening, May 6. We thank each for their Spirit-filled messages and are thankful for their safe travels.

On Wednesday, May 13, our Bro. Jim Bucher presented the first of a series of lessons for us on Biblical Financial Stewardship. We look forward to learning about our responsibilities in using the resources over which God has given us charge. At the beginning of the evening, his son, A.J., gave a slide show of his high school’s mission trip to Nicaragua where they interacted with people who have so many fewer financial resources.

We are missing some of the college students who have returned home for the summer, but we are enjoying the fellowship of those who have remained.

**Indiana, Lacrosse**

**Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke**

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Eph. 4:16

The arrival of spring inevitably brings the necessity of spring cleaning. Purging out what is no longer useful or needed, and cleansing those things that have value to preserve them. This necessity can become a beautiful illustration of the body of Christ, not only in how we should routinely be “spring cleaning” our hearts, but also in the act of a church family coming together for the Lord’s work. Our annual Church Cemetery clean-up day was soon followed by two evenings of yard work and landscaping around God’s house. We thank all of those who participated for their efforts. The results are always a blessing!

Another special time of coming together is our annual Ladies Spring Lunch. Sisters and friends, old and young enjoyed gathering for a delicious brunch and time of fellowship. We were reminded by the décor and different readings that “blessings are like buttons”; often small and unnoticed but essential, abundant, and worthy of thanks. Also worthy of thanks is the committee who lovingly made this time possible!

Our hearts ached when we heard the news that Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider’s nephew, Jade Schneider, was killed in a car accident on his way to work one morning. We extend our love to his parents, Dale and Andrea Schneider, and the rest of his family as they mourn his loss, and continue to pray they will feel our Lord’s comfort and healing.

We apologize for failing to mention last month of others in our church who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Kerri Gudeman’s (Bro. Glen) grandma, Geraldine Shaban of Valparaiso, IN, passed away on April 1. Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL), grandmother of Bro. Brad Rocke (Sis. Julie), also recently went to be with her Lord. Our love and prayers are with these loved ones and their families.

Sis. Judy Gudeman and Sis. Evie Heinold both spent some time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful for God’s healing and that they are both once again fellowshipping with us!

We were recently blessed with visiting ministers Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA). We heartily thank each of these brothers for sharing the Word.

Last, but not least, we congratulate Megan Heinold and Shane Moser as our high school graduates. We pray that they will allow the Lord’s perfect will to guide and bless them as they look to future.
Indiana, Leo
Kirby Reutter

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims!” 1 Peter 2:1

When I was younger, someone once told me: “April showers bring May flowers.” Then someone else told me: “The Mayflower brings pilgrims.” So this month I started to wonder: “And what do the pilgrims bring?” I decided to take a quick tour through my inbox to find out!

First, I learned that pilgrims bring camaraderie, encouragement, and support. Apparently, pilgrims need each other! The first email I found said this: “We are excited to welcome Bro. Jesse and Sis. Karla Zimmerman (with their adorable daughter Wren) as our new Alternate House Parents! Please pray for their adjustment to Gateway and a new community. Join us in helping them feel welcome here! Secondly, with lots of mixed emotions, we say good-bye to our wonderful and amazing Assistant House Parent Sis. Lindsey Kieser. Please pray for her transition to the Foster Care Department and for our residents as we lose someone on our team that has meant so much to us this past year. Last, we are so thankful to welcome Sis. Kristi Baran to our Cypress House Team. She has graciously accepted to step into the assistant role this summer. We are so excited to get to know her better. We are confident she will do an awesome job! Please pray that she can feel welcome at Cypress, and for her transition to a new house.”

Then the second email I found said this: “Whew! What a whirlwind! Prayers for all! And praise for having people to fill a need right when and where we need it! Welcome to Gateway, Zimmermans! Welcome to Cypress, Kristi! Welcome to the office, Lindsey!” (If you didn’t know any better, you might think that all of us at Gateway have stuck exclamation point keys.)

Then another follow-up email said this: “Another hello to mention: Bro. Brett Hoerr from Peoria, IL has accepted the position as Volunteer Coordinator for this summer. He will be excellent. We look forward to his arrival in May.”

Then I found this series of emails regarding Bro. Rob Parker from Bluffton (our new LARC Coordinator): “Fantastic! Welcome to the Gateway family Rob! Praise God! This is awesome news – so thankful! Happy to have another Bluffton brother at Gateway!” (If you want to know what LARC means, or why this news created such a stir, then I welcome you to come to Gateway to meet Bro. Rob in person). And then when I thought there couldn’t possibly be any new hires, I found yet another email: “Sis. Marisa Leman (Roanoke) will be joining the Foster Care team as a full-time Foster Care Case Manager!”

And then I learned that pilgrims do not drive their stakes in too deep. Consider this update from Sis. Abby Schumacher: “The time has come for me to step away from my role as a teacher at Gateway Woods and pursue other paths my life might take. Never did I think when I came to Leo five years ago to be a summer volunteer that I would call this town, state, or this organization my home for four years. Like all who have said before me, I have been tremendously blessed by working here and am forever changed by you all, the children we serve, and the work we do. Please lift up the school in prayer as the search for another teacher begins. Thank you all for playing an incredible role in shaping me through your wisdom, servant hearts, and encouragement. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!”

And then I learned that pilgrims lean on each other when the tide gets rough. Consider this unexpected email from Sis. Charla Leman: “I had an emergency C-section today for a baby boy (Solomon Gary, clocking in at 6 pounds and 3 ounces) so to say the least I will not be into work and will need to cancel some things.”

Then we received the following follow-up: “Solomon is currently in the NICU because he is having trouble with breathing. Please pray for his little lungs. Some good news is that he may be able to feed through a tube now instead of just getting nutrients from an IV. Please pray that he can improve so we can be allowed to hold him.”
And then I learned that Christian pilgrims sometimes multi-task as emus, kangaroos, and even soldiers! At a recent staff meeting, our very own accounting Bro. Mark Maibach made this announcement: “Emus and kangaroos cannot walk backward, and are on the Australian coat of arms for that reason.” And then Bro. Mark gave this battle cry—“Onward Christian Soldiers!”—and we sang these words together, in unison: “Like a mighty army, moves the Church of God: Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod! We are not divided, all one Body we—one in faith and Spirit, one eternally!”

In conclusion, this is what I learned this month: Sometimes pilgrims experience April showers. Sometimes pilgrims experience May flowers. Sometimes pilgrims experience transition from one call of duty to another. Sometimes transition happens when we least expect it. Sometimes pilgrims are called to weep and pray. Sometimes pilgrims are called to rejoice and pray. At all times, however, pilgrims are called to stick together and help each other on the voyage. Pilgrims are not perfect—but we do serve a perfect Captain!

Indiana, Milford

Jodi Beer, Minnie Beer

We were blessed with two visiting ministers recently: Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction). May God bless them for their willingness to serve our church.

“...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.” Ruth 1:16.

We read the book of Ruth during our Mother’s Day service and were reminded of the importance of being a godly example to everyone around us, whether we are a mother or not. We thank God for our caring mothers and for the miracle of life.

We had our Promotion Program and are now ready to start a new Sunday School year. God bless each Brother and Sister who have completed their terms and our prayers with each one who is starting their new term.

“The Sunday school is our delight. We love it more and more; ‘Tis here we learn to do the right And live forever more.”

Hymns of Zion #73 vs. 1

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:53 & 54

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bros. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) and Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue) Lester, IA to help serve Communion. Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Woldcott, IN) was willing to help serve on the pulpit as most of our ministers were traveling and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Janice, from Ixtlan, Mexico) were visiting for a granddaughter’s graduation. What a blessing to have visitors of like mind and faith willing to minister unto us.

Bro. Walt Bahler (Sis. Esther) was a surgery patient this month. We are glad to have our Convert Wes Corbin back worshiping with us again after an extended hospital stay.

Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman are excited to announce the birth of their son, Harvey Arthur. Big sisters, Sadie & Millie, are anxious to play with their new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman & Bro. Gary and Sis. Elma Wettstein from Roanoke, IL.

We can all be thankful to have or have had mothers that raised us up to know our Lord and Savior. Mother’s Day is a special day when we can honor our dear Mothers. This verse always come to mind when we think of our children: “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22:6

Our church family was saddened by the sudden, tragic death of Jade Schneider (Dale & Andrea Schneider). Jade was the grandson of Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, late Sis. Loretta) and nephew to Bro. Greg & Sis. Heidi Schneider, Bro. Brian & Sis. Kristen Schneider, and Bro. John & Sis. Lisa Walder. Sometimes it is hard to understand God’s plan, but we know He has a plan for
each one of us. May this family feel the earnest prayers that are being sent upward to ease their deep sorrow.

Our graduating seniors this year are: Convert Grant Knobloch (Bro. Neil & Sis. June), Katelyn Waibel (Bro. Bruce & Sis. Jody), Kyler Walder (Bro. John & Sis. Lisa), and Sis. Kayla Bahler (Bro. Tim & Sis. Lynette).

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

Note of thanks:

The family of Jade Schneider would like to thank each of you who reached out in any way to help at the sudden death of our loved one. May the Lord bless you for your expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards and other deeds of kindness.

Dale and Andrea Schneider and family, Bro. Ken & Sis. Bernice Schneider and families

Indiana, Valparaiso

Sherry Meiss

How we were blessed with our Good Friday service, thank you Bro. Joe Gerst and Sis. Connie (Iowa City, IA). Then Easter Sunday reminded us of what Jesus did for our souls, which should be enough to keep our hearts with Him always. On April 12, Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus and Sis. Jenna (Remington, IN) and Bro. Lynn Stieglitz and Sis. Leonda (Leo, IN) were with us in service for Communion. Thank you for taking the time to come and give us the message that Christ Jesus is alive and with us. There were many visitors who came to share in worship and fellowship. It is such a blessing to see new and old faces come through our doors and back into our hearts.

Oh the joy that filled our hearts when baby Silas Joseph Pratt decided he wanted to come into the world. Early, on March 26, 2015, Bro. Jon and Sis. Sharon Pratt gave birth to this beautiful gift from God, a son. Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa, IA) and Joseph and Jane Pratt were blessed with another grandson.

Our spring luncheon for the residents and guests at ParkView Haven retirement home went on as planned. We served around 120 people. I have to thank everyone who participated in making this event happen. Your service does not go unnoticed. I could have not done it without you all. So, a Very Big Thank You!

Another one of our members, Bro. Logan Weiss, son of Bro. Dennis & Sis. Marsha Weiss, has accepted a job in Des Moines, IA. We all are going to miss him terribly. He has displayed himself as a strong Christian with his life and works. Our prayers will be with him and his family as God’s plan is laid out before him.

Continue to pray for Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger as she finishes up her treatment and starts on the medication, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr as age takes them down the journey of life. Plus, please pray for each other that God may strengthen us and give us His comfort.

Indiana, West Lafayette

Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl

Praising the Lord together in Word and in Song, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) challenged us to remember the persecuted church in his message to us April 30. Many of our students’ parents were able to gather with us that night for Parent Appreciation! We as a
church appreciate their love and support throughout the year and the bonus that the students’ zeal lends our congregation.

We are sad to say farewell - but excited with the following college students who will be graduating: Jake Bowerman; Sis. Madison Gutwein, Chloe Huber & Erica Putt; Bros. Paul Huber, Keelin Isch, Kyle Isch, Jason Isch, Logan Weiss and Mark Wuethrich.

We are saddened that Dennis, Beth and Drake Wenninger will be moving! We have loved them much. Our loss will be Latty’s gain!

The Covenant Chamber Choir brought their ministry in song to our church family! Thanks to each of their participants for blessing us!

**Indiana, Wolcott**
*Beckie Lehman, Erica Blume*

Our church commemorates Christ’s sacrifice with communion each spring. On April 18 and 19, Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra; Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue; Lester, IA) assisted our counseling elder, Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN) for the occasion. We are grateful for their willingness to travel and feed us spiritual food.

Our convert Ryan Warren is surely very thankful and humbled that Christ’s blood was shed for his sin! He has found peace with God and man and is waiting for a chance to share his testimony with our church.

**Iowa, Burlington**
*Ivy Steiner, Monica Eisenmann*

"O give thanks unto The Lord;”
_Psalm 105:1_

We were thankful to have Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) as our visiting minister recently. May he be blessed for his service.

Our prayers and God’s blessings to our three high school graduates this year. They are Bros. Zachary Schulz, Joseph Steiner, and Bennett Wulf. We wish them well with their future plans, whether it is more schooling or in the workplace.

**Iowa, Elgin**
*Maria Rocke*

“Oh how lovely ‘tis to be with our Lord in unity...” _Unity in Love, Zion’s Harp #181_

Our congregation was, once again, blessed as we partook of Holy Communion with our elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). May God reward these brothers for their labors of love.

Also visiting this month was Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA). We thank each one for coming and sharing an inspired message.

Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer are thankful for the arrival of a little granddaughter, Jessica Lynn Gerst, on May 8. Bro. Tim and Sis. Melisa (Iowa City, IA) are her parents. Her siblings include Anelyse, Joseph, Jenna, Anthony, Jared and Aleyna.

Laynie Elise Schmidgall is the little blessing born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Tiffany on May 18. Brock and Kyleigh are her siblings. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schmidgall and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman, both of Forrest, IL.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**
*Laura Funk*

Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) shared the Word this month. We appreciate their willingness to be used by the Spirit to feed our little flock.

In our little congregation, we have those who have suffered injury, had surgery and
been hospitalized for illness. Remington Newton, grandson of Sis. Willa Clark, suffered a broken arm in two places and underwent surgery. Brittany Moser (Kris) suffered a knee injury and underwent surgery. Devon Funk, son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen, has been ill but is recuperating at home. We are thankful all are home and mending, but would appreciate prayers.

A day is set aside in June to honor our earthly father. Shouldn’t every day be Father’s Day?

I was looking through some ‘stuff’ today and found this poem. I had to think, am I a sheep leading lambs astray?

’Twas a sheep, not a lamb,
That strayed away
In the parable Jesus told,
A grown-up sheep that had
gone astray
From the ninety and nine
in the fold.

Out in the meadows,
out in the cold,
’Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought.
Back to the flock, and into the fold,
’Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.
Why, for the sheep,
should we earnestly long
And so earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger, if they go wrong.
They will lead the young lambs astray.
For the lambs follow the sheep,
you know,
Wherever the sheep may stray;

If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
Till the lambs are as wrong as they.
So, with the sheep, we earnestly plead
For the sake of the lambs today,
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost.
Some sheep may have to pay.”
-Minnie Lee Bovender

**Iowa, Iowa City**

*Diana Butikofer*


We are thankful Kolter Messner (Bro. Kris and Sis. Dixie) and Sis. Barb Fehr (Bro. Bob) could return home soon after surgeries and pray God will continue to heal them.

Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) were willing to teach us from the Scriptures this past month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) shared Holy Communion with us and taught us on Sunday as well. May the Lord bless these brothers and their wives for their time and effort on our behalf!

Noah Landherr (Ron and Audrey) recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and plans to teach in Cedar Rapids starting this fall. Sis. Jeanette Moser has completed her master’s degree in Human Services (Health & Wellness). We wish each of them God’s grace to use their new knowledge to better understand and serve Him and His creation according to His will.

**Iowa, Lester**

*Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser*

“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…”

Proverbs 3:1-2

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and his entire family, when they spent a weekend with us in April. We appreciated Bro. Jim being used in His service by sharing God’s Word from the pulpit. Bro. Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA) also shared our pulpit on Mother’s Day weekend. We thank him for his fitting message, and for his efforts.

We congratulate our high school graduates: Morgan Klostergaard (Brad & Sis. Linda), Sis. Amy Knobloch (Bro. Myron & the late Sis. Beth), Damon Knobeloch (Bro. Vern & Sis. Chalea), Keegan Knobloch (Bro. Lance & Sis. Kristi), Brooks Metzger (Bro. Blair & Sis. Julie), Grant Metzger (Bro. Jerome & Sis. Jana), Neil Metzger (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Polly), Addie Meyer (Bro.
Denis & Sis. Jill), Tarah Meyer (Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda), and Trevor Popkes (John & Sis. Karmin). Our prayer for each of these young people, as they end this phase of life and begin the next chapter, is that God will bless and guide them as they embark on adulthood, with its new privileges and responsibilities!

Congratulations are also in order for our college graduates: Bro. Blain Knobloch (Bro. Vern & Sis Chalea), Sadie Knobloch (Bro. Dan & Sis. ReJean), Brendan Metzger (Bro. Blair & Sis. Julie), Bro. Sam Meyer (Bro. Denis & Sis. Jill), and Sis. Cari Moser (Bro. Rick & Sis. Lori). As they enter the “work world” may they bring blessings to those around them, and feel God’s blessing as they begin their careers!

Two young couples have announced their intent to marry. We rejoice with them as they anticipate this change in their lives! Congratulations to Christopher Leuthold (Bro. Doug & Charlene) and Erica Heikes, who are planning their wedding for March 2016. We also congratulate Bro. Sam Meyer (Bro. Denis & Sis. Jill) and Sis. Nichole Barber (Mike & Sis. Donna) who plan to exchange vows in July. May God bless both of these couples with an abundance of His love as they anticipate building their lives together!

On May 2, the wedding of Sam Metzger (Bro. Bruce & Sis Harriet) and Jill Thomann took place in Iowa City. We ask for God’s blessing on their marriage and look forward to seeing more of them as Sam & Jill will be living in our area again.

Our convert, Reagan Meyer (Bro. Brad & Sis Trinda) has expressed that he feels at peace with God and man and desires baptism. We are thankful for this, and rejoice with him.

Please remember those with ongoing health concerns in your prayers. We realize that each congregation probably has loved ones included on that list. We know God can grant grace sufficient for each day, both for those suffering fleshly afflictions, and for the loved ones standing by in constant support. Hospital patients this past month include Bro. Vern Knobloch, Sis. Alice Metzger, Bro. Marvin Metzger, Sis. Margene Peasley, and Poppy Mogler (Bro. Chet & Sis. Cassie).

Our dear Sis. Donna Gerber left this earthly life unexpectedly on May 1, having just celebrated her 80th birthday a few weeks before. We were all reminded of how quickly life changes. We pray for God’s comforting hands to hold and uplift her husband of over 60 years, Bro. John, and their children: Jeff (Shelley), Greg (Wanda), Sheryl (Tom) Bouwman, David (Sherryl) and Cindy (Brian) Blakespoor. We also extend sympathy to surviving siblings from our congregation: Sis. Mariann (Bro. Elmer) Metzger, Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Sis. Janet Wysong, and Bro. Frank Moser, and to in-laws from the Lester church: Sis. Leona Moser, Bro. Robert (Sis. Nancy) Gerber, Bro. Bill (Sis. Erma) Gerber, and Jim (Marlene) Gerber, along with many extended family members both here and across the land.

Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis
Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz

On April 18-19, our Single Group hosted an invite-a-friend weekend. It was nice to have a full church. The singing sounded beautiful with all the extra voices.

We also had three visiting ministers that Sunday: Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA), and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL). On Mother’s Day, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) shared the Word with us. May God bless these brothers for their willingness to serve.

We bid farewell to Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary Wegman as they move back to Morton, IL, after living in the Oakville-Mediapolis area for 47 years. They will be missed for their steadfastness and encouragement. We wish them many blessings as they settle in their new home at The Parkside in Morton, IL.

We had five college graduates this year: Bro. Caleb Larson (Bro. Mark and Sis. Rosemary), Logan Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris), Sis. Erika Massner (Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni), Sis. Rory Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb), and Marie Schulz (Roger and June). We had one high school graduate.
this year, Sis. Raiann Lanz (Bro. Regan & Sis. Tricia). We wish them God’s nearness and direction as they make decisions in the future.

Iowa, West Bend

Yvonne Bruellman, Becky Virkler

“When a Christian dies, precious is the prize.”
Hymns of Zion #248.

Sis. Lucille Schmidt has won that precious prize. Missing her presence are her children: Lynn (David) Petersen; Dennis (Annette) Schmidt, Eagan, MN; Gayle (Alex) Schimmel, Kansas City, KS; and Bro. Neal (Sis. Angela) Schmidt. Also left to mourn are her grandchildren and Sis. Lucille’s siblings which include Sis. Joyce Banwart from our congregation.

We are thankful our hospitalized patients have each returned to their residing places. Sis. Jackie Mogler, Sis. Frances Zaugg, Ashlyn Banwart (Bro. Marc and Sis. Jami) and Jay Frieden have felt God’s healing Hand over them.

Our congregation was encouraged to have five visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansa City, MO), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis Lyla, LaCrosse, IN). May God bless their labor of love.

“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” St. John 4:14.

Sunday we were blessed to hear these words of Life as we gathered to worship God. It was the Sunday of our high school graduation. We pray our graduates will each seek, continually, the living water. High School graduates are: Jack Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer); Bro. Taylor Fehr (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Lonnie); Bro. Trevor Fehr (Bro. Mark & Sis Janet); Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Cameron & Sis. Tammy); Derek Metzger (Bro. Duane & Sis. Ruth); Alicia Mogler (Bro. Lynn & Sis. Amy); Brooke Schmidt (Bro. Wendell & Sis. Karen); Carson Wirtz (Bro. Chuck & Sis. Trela); Kylie Wirtz (Doug & Angie), and Tong Yang Lee (foreign exchange student living with Bro. Duane & Sis. Ruth Metzger). May God be with each graduate.

Japan, Tokyo

Marie Inoue

We are thankful we could feel the Lord’s presence every Sunday this month as we gathered in His Name for our church services.

A call was received from the hospital where Bro. Yamazaki resides. They mentioned that his condition was getting very weak. It seems now he has regained some strength again, and we especially pray the Lord will provide for him each day.

Our yearly business meeting was held this month and several have volunteered to take on jobs such as purchasing supplies the church uses and ordering Sunday School materials. We were encouraged and reminded that our labors in the Lord’s house result in blessings for those who do them willingly.

We enjoy the presence of Reika Murakami, a nurse from the Hokkaido area, who gathers with us when she can. She is employed in a hospital in Tokyo. We trust the Lord will reveal Himself to her as she seeks to learn more of His love and ways.

Kansas, Bern

Jill Meyer, Rita Menold

“…As the tender flower willingly unfoldeth,
To the sunlight gently yieldeth,
May we be glad and free,
Heavenly light receiving,
Thou Thy work achieving.”
Zion’s Harp #68 vs. 4

Even though we witness it each year, we continue to be amazed at the wonder and beauty of spring!

We congratulate our high school graduates of 2015: Sis. Tabitha Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim), Sis. Kara Goodman (Mike and Sis. Luci), Taylor Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), Blane Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue) and Ryan Strahm (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle). May God’s blessings be upon them as they seek His guidance for their future!

Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara,
Sabetha) was our visiting minister this month. We appreciate his willingness to bring us the Word of Life.

It was a treat to have the single group serve lunch for Mother’s Day. We thank each of them for their love and service to us!

Our Sunday School grades 6-8 traveled to Lamont for the annual Youth Fellowship Weekend. We thank the Lamont congregation for their labors of love and hospitality!

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger

On a recent Wednesday evening we heard the reading of the Memorandum of the General Brotherhood Conference. We were thankful to Elder Bro. Bradley Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) for sharing the many relevant spiritual topics.

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

Our two graduating seniors are Ben Fischer and Drew Sinn. We congratulate them and pray they will seek the Lord in all their endeavors.

Each Memorial Day, literally hundreds of American flags line National Ave. enroute to Fort Scott's historical National Cemetery No. 1. The patriotic display is a sober tribute to those who gave their lives to protect our right to worship the One whose sacrificial death on the cross offers us true freedom.

“Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John:15:13

Kansas, Kiowa
Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr

May and June are the months we set aside a Sunday to honor our earthly parents, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Let us remember the first commandment with promise, “Honor thy father and thy mother”, Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:2.

We had one graduating student this May. Sis. Stacy Stuart graduated with a nursing degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Congratulations are in order for Sis. Stacy! May God’s blessings always be yours in your bright future in the nursing field.

A special congratulation also goes out to our beloved Bro. Joe and Sis. Mildred Frieden as they celebrated 70 years of marriage together. They have both been faithful servants in the church for many, many years. We wish you many more years of health and happiness!

Our congregation was gathered together in May to partake of one of the Sacraments that our Lord provided for His own. Holy Communion was served by Elder Bro. John Lehman of Bern, KS with the assistance of our local ministers. What a meaningful evening we had, first with an earthly supper for everybody to attend and enjoy, followed by the Lord’s Supper immediately after. The Sunday messages the following day were also a great blessing for all who thirsted for the Living Word.

THE OLD QUILTMAKER

There was an old woman who loved the Lord.
She had learned to quilt in her later years,
And she and the Lord spent many night hours toward
Dawn at her sewing machine quilting for family and peers.
Then one night without any guilt
She was quilting and sipping hot tea,
When slowly but surely the clock to midnight ascended.
The message came in on her cell with a ding.
The girl had written “could you please craft me a quilt
With deer and with tractors, both red and green?”
Oh, my….thought the old woman….How crass can she be?
Asking a quilt of such magnitude
of me?
And deer and tractors?? Oh, horrors….thought she.
No way would she comply with the message she read;
“Why, I’ve got 17 quilts lined up to be tended;
And I’m afraid the cost is way over your head!”
And with that, the request for the quilt was ended.
And THEN the old quiltmaker was ready for bed
So she broke open her Bible and read where it said
The 40th verse in Matthew 25:
And lo and behold, it caught her eye:
“In so much as ye have done it
unto the least of these,
Ye have done it unto Me” said the
Savior with ease.
The old woman yelled “NO
waking her husband with a cry;
This verse was simply not at all her
to please.
So she tried again, this time a
safer place in the Scripture;
Surely here, she thought, as the
Old Testament she parted.
But “Oh, no!...Proverbs 3:37 then
drew her the picture:
“Withhold not good from them
When it is in the power of thine
hand to do it”.
That settled it! The quilt would be
immediately started,
And the old woman would surely
put her hand to it
And the blueprint was drawn
before she knew it.
So after many long weeks of
quilting and sewing
And many yards of fabric with
tractors and deer,
A beautiful handmade quilt was
finally showing.
And soon was ready to make
its premier;
So the old woman readied it for
its bestowing.
“Thank you, I love it!” said the
girl of her quilt,
Unaware of the art
That set it apart.
“No, Thank YOU!” came the reply
Of the old woman who was
standing by
With a gaze toward the sky
And a tear in her eye
And a prayer on her heart,
As she whispered “not my will,
but whatever Thou wilt”.

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

Trust and Obey refrain,
Hymns of Zion, #186

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger
We have been blessed by
several refreshing rains the past 3
weeks. To see the pastures, trees,
and plants in such a vivid green
that only our Heavenly Father can
create is such a wonderous sight.
Many in the area of the Flint hills
of Kansas derive their living from
pasturing cattle on these lush
pastures. So abundant moisture to
make the pastures flourish and to
fill our pasture ponds for water for
the cattle is a blessing.
Psalm 50:10-12 “For every beast
of the forest is mine, and the cattle
upon a thousand hills. I know all
the fowls of the mountains: and the
wild beasts of the field are mine.
If I were hungry, I would not tell
thee: for the world is mine, and the
fullness thereof.”

So as are we are blessed and
watered by the Word through the
ministry of our own ministers
each Sunday, we have been
encouraged through the preaching
of Bro. David (Sis. Beth) Harter
of Sabetha and Bro. Cory (Sis.
Jodi) Metzger of Wichita. Both
brothers brought their children
with them some of whom added
to our Sunday School attendance.
What an encouragement to hear
the same Word, presented a little
differently by each servant of God.

Bro. Ron Isch escaped a
serious injury when he and his
son, Bro. Justin, were working
cattle. Bro. Ron was kicked
in the forehead and required
several stitches.
Sis. Dorene Metzger was again
a surgical patient.

Our congregation hosted
the 6th-8th grade Sunday
School students from Denver,
CO; Garden Grove, IA; Kansas
City, MO; and Sabetha, Bern,
& Kiowa, KS. Bro. Kevin (Sis.
Annie) Wulf of Morris, MN was
the speaker. He spoke to the
students about Satan’s Tool Box,
making real how Satan works in
our lives. He also left the group
with the following acronym
for “STILL”. Be SILENT and
TRUST and God will give you
an INVITATION to LISTEN
and to LEARN.
The above would be a good
thing to put in each of our own
version of God’s Toolbox and
faithfully use those godly tools daily
as we walk this pilgrim’s pathway.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Harter, Dawn Strahm
We thank Elder Bro. Brad
Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS)
for assisting Elder Bro. Gerry with
Holy Communion on May 2.
What a blessed time to remember
the sacrifice our Savior gave for us.
“And ye, the Church’s members, truly are folded in my heart’s embrace! In Christ ye are my brethren duly; We share salvation through His grace. We drink one cup; we break one bread; One Saviour suffered in our stead.” The Lord’s Supper, Zion’s Harp #25

Our hospital patient this past month was Sis. Irene Lehman. We uplift her in prayer that she may have healing and strength.

Congratulations to our high school graduates as they reach this milestone in life. May they look to God for guidance and direction as they close one chapter in life and open a new one. Our graduates are Bro. Logan Fehr (Bro. Todd & Sis. Cynthia) and Isaac Edelman (Darin & Sis. Karen).

We are thankful that Rachel Fehr (Bro. Todd & Sis. Cynthia) and Jarod Hartter (Bro. Dave & Sis. Beth) have been granted peace and look forward to baptism the weekend of June 20 & 21.

Thank you to the Lamont-Gridley church for hosting our Junior Bible Class for a blessed weekend of fellowship with those from the area churches.

May we remember our earthly fathers as Father’s Day approaches. We thank them for their earthly training and preserving the faith. May we continue onward and forward as we strive to meet our Heavenly Father above.

Kansas, Wichita
Max and Judy Reimschisel

A Mother’s Day dinner was given in honor for our beloved mothers. Memories of mother are always very special as we grow older in life. When we were young, mom was always our source of direction, as we get older, we seem to appreciate them so much more.

An acronym was given for the word STILL
S--BE SILENT
T--TRUST
I--INVITATION
L--LEARN
L--LISTEN

One of the works projects completed for this month was an attractive cedar fence on the south residential side of the parking lot. Everyone seemed to appreciate the new landscaping of the privacy fence, including our neighbors.

Our prayers of encouragement are with Sis. Judy Reimschisel as she encountered a fall and broke both ankles. Surgery has been completed and now she’s in the healing process. She is thankful for the many prayers and cards of encouragement from all over. God is so good to us and puts His angels around us when we are in need. We tend to forget the blessing of having two feet that work until they are taken away from us. The words from the hymn, “I Need the Prayers of Those I Love” are very comforting and encouraging.

“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”
Isaiah 48:10

Much stormy weather interrupted our visiting minister’s travel and he did not get to attend Sunday services, just as storms of life take over sometime and we miss out on the blessings from God. We are thankful every day for His tender mercies and grace. He is our awesome God.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“There are friendships that we cherish…”

May 10 was the day that we bid farewell to Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (and Ivory and Titus). After almost three years of serving the church here, they have returned to Princeville. We miss their presence in Ixtlán, but thank God for all they contributed to the work here. They blessed our Sunday School, the school, young people they worked with and the lives of so many of us that grew to love them.

We did have a new little visitor this month. Israel and Leti Torres welcomed Emanuel into their family on April 9. His siblings: Jaqueline, Janet and José Luis are also happy for another boy in the home.

As another school year winds to an end and the first generation of students prepares to graduate from Colegio de las Americas, there are many important decisions that need to be made.
for the future. We appreciate your prayers for God’s hand to guide the work forward as He wills.

**Michigan, Alto**

*Renee Steffen, Shelli Oesch*

“April showers bring May flowers...” And it certainly has. Blooms both on the ground and on the trees are bursting forth in glorious praise to the Father of Creation! God be praised for the change of seasons.

We were so blessed this past month to take part in Holy Communion. Truly ‘the world’ does not know what they are missing by not experiencing this overwhelming ‘love gift’ we shared. Elder Bro. John Jackson from Bay City was here to share in this. We would like to extend our thanks for his willingness to come and help Elder Bro. Ted with this work.

This past month, our dear Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) was hospitalized and many prayers were petitioned for him and his wife. Upon receiving word that Angie Sixberry (Jason) was hospitalized, we are lifting her up in prayer. May she know healing by the Master’s Hand.

On May 9, we had a beautiful Ladies Spring Banquet. It was here that we were reminded that when we sing the hymn ‘Now thank we all our God,’ that this hymn of prayer and praise should be sung with true sincerity, and in adoration to our Father above. As four young women sang this prayer, the verse including “…who from our mothers arms…”, touched many hearts.

On Sunday morning, we heard of a mother’s love as the story of Hannah unfolded: her faith, her prayers, her willing sacrifice to follow through on her promises, so like our own mothers.

One recent Wednesday night Brother Howard said, “It’s always great to hear babies crying in church!” This brought a grin to my heart and face as I totally agreed with him. Those cries represent our future church, the innocence of youth, and most likely, prayer for wisdom, strength and patience in the mother. May we appreciate those cries and pray for the mothers.

At ninety-nine years old, Bro. Lloyd Blough (Sis. Ella Louise) is one of very few men still living, who served our country during WWII. He is being honored in Washington, D.C. this week for his service as a staff sergeant mechanic. We love this dear brother and are so excited when he still feels up to coming to church. With many prayers for his safe journey, and words of honor and thanks, we are, with anticipation, waiting to hear about his reunion.

Thought to ponder:

**Breakthroughs are Beautiful**

“When at last you can breakthrough from pain and anger of the past, forgiving others and yourself, this bringing joy and peace at last.”

-Inspired by God-res

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**Michigan, Detroit**

*Manuela Denes*

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.” 1 Cor. 11:28

We were encouraged this month to spend time in quiet examination and contemplation prior to our coming together to share Holy Communion. It was a blessing to spend Saturday evening with brethren commemorating the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us all. We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Rod (Sis. Sue) Bajema of Lester, IA to share in the service with our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr.

Our Detroit choir travelled to Illinois this past month to share a song service at the benefit for the Home for the Handicapped on a Saturday night. Sunday was spent worshipping with the Congerville, IL church. Many thanks and appreciative thoughts for those who spent time practicing and of course to those who put in the time for setting up such a special event.

Congratulations to our graduates! Graduating from high school is Haley Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth). Haley plans to attend Grand Valley State. Bro. Jeff Matejin (Sis. Mira) graduated with a degree in Engineering from the University of Michigan. Sis. Pamela Gleichman (Bro. Alan) has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Madonna University. May God bless them as they start on new paths in life and grant them guidance and wisdom.
Our sympathies go out to Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner in the passing of his sister-in-law, Sis. Marge Kaisner (Bro. Merle) from Fairbury, IL.

A special thanks to Bro. Bob Knochel for coming this month for Woodhaven services. With him was his wife, Sis. Rhonda, from our Bay City, MI church.

Prayers are greatly appreciated for Sandy Novotnik, mother of Kim Smith, as she deals with brain cancer. No matter how frightening our lives may get, it is so comforting to know that we can take our fears to the Lord!

A warm invitation is extended to all to attend the 27th Annual Choir Benefit on Saturday, July 18. Dinner at 5:00 will be followed by the musical program at 7:00. No RSVP is needed, so if you’re free, please come visit us!

Minneapolis, Minnesota
Brenda Messner, Betty Lindwall

Living up north, we are so appreciative of spring! God’s beauty is all around us with the new life of budding trees and flowers, green grass, and warm weather.

We think of our dear Bro. Jim and Sis. Krissa Klotzle as they move with their sweet children, Karlina, Ender, and Aeslyn, to be by Jim’s family in Altadena, CA. We miss them terribly, but may they feel our love and flourish where God has planted them.

Also, we will miss Nikita Garman as she moves back to the Tremont area. We wish her God’s blessings.

Prayers for healing are sent for Debbie Bergren, sister of our Sis. Brenda Messner, as she recovers from surgery at Mayo’s. We have enjoyed having her worship with us when she is able.

We also pray for our Sis. Vera Schmidt who has health problems. We miss her and pray that she may feel our prayers and God’s nearness.

Our healing prayers are with Jennifer Bentz (Sis. Sandy Bentz) as she is recovering from an illness.

Our Sunday School children shared the beautiful Easter story with us with a theme of “Believe.” May this story never grow old in our hearts and minds as we think of what our Blessed Savior did for each and every one of us.

Minnesota, Morris
Amy Ekren, Heidi Pfaffmann

We were thankful to have Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena, MX) travel the many miles to visit our congregation and share God’s Word.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Tara Wulf, along with big brother Camden, welcomed home Emmie Rose. Her grandparents are Stan and Sis. Pam Wulf and Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori Fehr (Morris North, MN).

Recovering this month were Sisters Barb Schmidgall (Bro. Gilbert) and Annie Wulf (Bro. Kevin). May God provide His comfort and healing to these dear sisters.

Our congregation welcomes Micah Bajema from Lester, IA as he lives and works in Morris for the summer.

We rejoice with our 2015 graduates from high school and college! May God bless and guide them as they take the next step in life.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jer. 29:11

Minnesota, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall, Wanda Gramm

“Let us gather up the sunbeams, lying all around our path:
Let us keep the wheat and roses, casting out the thorns and chaff,
Let us find our sweetest comfort in the blessings of today,
With a patient hand removing all the briars from the way.
Strange we never prize the music, til the sweet-voiced bird is flown!
Strange that we should slight the violets till the lovely flowers are gone!
Strange that summer skies and sunshine never seem one half so fair,
As when winters snowy pinions shake the white down in the air.
Then scatter seeds of kindness, then scatter seeds of kindness, for our reaping by and by.”

#86 Gospel Hymns

We have been so blessed to have brothers come and share The Word. We want to thank our Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter and Earl Ringger for spending the weekend with us. Also, Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman, Bern, KS; Bro. Dewayne (Sis. Lanae) Dill, Minneapolis, MN. We so appreciate you and all of our
visitors that come to worship with us. May God bless you.

Mother’s Day is such a special day….Our Trustees treated us to lunch on Mother’s Day Sunday. Thank you brothers, not only for the lunch, but also for all your labors of love for our church.

We rejoice with Brittany and Alex Neukomm, Morton, IL, On the birth of their little Josephine. Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne Esterling are the grandparents of little Josie. Little ones are truly special in His sight. Our prayers continue for Josie, as she has had health issues when she was born.

Many gathered at Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser’s for the National Day of Prayer. We are reminded that our duty is to pray for those in authority. May our nation, who was founded on God, find their way back to Him, thru our prayers.

We want to invite you to visit us if your summer travel plans are in our area.

Let’s be busy scattering seeds of kindness….for our reaping is coming by and by.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

**Lindsay Schmidt, Becky Braulick**

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

*Psalm 119:105*

We thank Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for sharing the Word with us. We are so grateful that our ministers are willing to wait on the Spirit to bring forth the truth of the Word.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner also gave a presentation on the Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. It really opened our eyes to the scope of responsibility that goes into caring for their residents. We thank those that give of themselves and all their hard work and dedication that keep these homes open. May God continue to bless them.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” *James 1:12*

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies are with the family of Bro. Elmer (Doc) and Sis. Hazel Schmidt. Bro. Elmer was called to his heavenly home on February 22. Sis. Hazel Schmidt went home to heaven on March 27. Their children are Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou), Sis. Nancy Van Deest (Bro. Dick), Bro. Tim Schmidt (Liz), Charlene Lauwagie (Howard), Sis. Bev Miller (Bro. Terry, Gridley, IL), Sis. Janice Gutwein (Bro. Jerry, Francisville, IN), Mark Schmidt (Linda, Chaska, MN), and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman (Bro. Kent, Forrest, IL). Bro. Elmer’s living siblings are Bro. Darrel Schmidt (Darlene) and Sis. Ethel Bednarski (San Diego, CA). Sis. Hazel’s living siblings are Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Don Messner (Sis. Viola), Idabell Witt (Don), Bro. Marvin Messner, Shirley Demm, and Bro. Gerald Messner and sisters-in-law: Sis. Bernadine Messner, Vernita Messner and Verda Messner. May each one feel God’s nearness and comfort through their grief and sorrow.

Dear Sis. Delores Messerli passed away March 25. Our prayer and sympathy are with her children and their families: Donna Meyer (Charles), Allen Messerli (Mary), Dale Messerli (Paulette), Arlen Messerli, Calvin Messerli (Debbie) and Kathy Messerli. Also to her siblings Elaine Rettig and Marlyn Messner (Lois), sisters-in-law: Sis. Georgia Messner, Sis. Melva Messner, Avie Messerli and brothers-in-law: Daniel Messerli (Miriam) and Willmer Lehrke (Sylvia).

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sam Miller’s (Sandy), in the passing of his nephew, Larry Miller on April 8 and Bro. Roy Howk in the passing of his great, great grandson, Aydden Gonzales, who passed away on April 9.

We also want to express our sympathy to Sis. Verna Bruns in the loss of her sister-in-law, Sis. Lucille Schmidt (West Bend, IA). Our thoughts and prayers are with Lucille’s family during this time.

“Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:” *Psalm 106:44*

We think and pray for our loved ones in our church that are going through physical afflictions. Bro. Kenneth Messner (Margaret) as he undergoes chemo, Bro. Bill Messner (Sis. Marilyn) after his surgery, and Tom Miller (Maggie) as he recovers from pneumonia, Sis. Georgia Messner as she
recovers from surgery from her fall, and Eldwin (Lois) Schmidt as he is having some medical testing done. We pray that God will continue to put His healing and comforting hands on them.

“He is not here: for he is risen…” Matthew 28:6

As the Easter season comes it is good for us to remember what Christ did for us dying on the cross and becoming victorious over the cross and the grave! We thank the Sunday School children and teachers for serving us with a wonderful Easter breakfast. It was good to see so many families gathered together for this occasion and for us to gather at church later to hear the story of our Risen Lord.

“Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.” Hebrews 6:14

Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner welcome another grandson, Elim Steffen (Bro. Jordan & Sis. Shayla, Belvidere, IL). We pray for God’s blessings on baby Elim.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

Our church also hosted our annual Invite-a-Church at the beginning of May. We invited families from Lester, IA to come and share the weekend with us. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship and we want to thank each one that made the effort to come.

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you;” Isaiah 66:13

God likens himself to a mother, bringing to mind the incredible comforting ability of a loving mother. We can each one remember that love and comfort. We also are grateful for the teachings of our mothers. As we celebrate Mother’s Day, may we honor our mothers for all they do and have done for us.

Missouri, Kansas City

We were thankful to have visiting ministers Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber) from Goodfield, Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel) from Winthrop, and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally) from Wichita with us recently.

Recent graduates include Blake Meyer, Colin Fehr, Leanna Webel (all from high school), and Sis. Allison Meyer from dental school. May they look to the Lord to guide and bless their future endeavors.

Our Single Group and congregation was blessed to host a Single Group Invite weekend with a large number in attendance. The Saturday evening singing was a joyous occasion for both the Singles and our congregation.

Ps. 98:4 “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”

As the spring planting nears completion, may we be reminded of the Lord’s desire that our lives bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-23.

Missouri, Lamar

Venetta Banwart

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker. We pray for God’s healing hand and strength as each regains their strength.

Our visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Doug Schock, Bloomfield, IA (Sis. Clara), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke, Minneapolis, MN (Sis. Bonnie), Bro. Brad Funk, Garden Grove, IA (Sis. Laura), Bro. Matthew Steffen, Princeville, IL (Sis. Deanna), Bro. Kevin Banwart, West Bend, IA (Sis. Sandy), Bro. Howard Plattner, Alto, MI. May God grant each a rich blessing in coming to Lamar to feel us from the Living Word.

We would like to thank Elder Bros. Doug Schock and Duane Rocke for serving us Holy Communion. What a blessing to remember what Christ has done for us in sheading His blood and braking His body for our sins on the cross, that we may one day have a home in heaven, if we are true and faithful to life’s end.

“O, may we all united stand by holy tie and sacred band, As members of Christ’s body here, Led by Thy Spirit true, sincere, with one accord.” Zion’s Harp #200 verse 2

Missouri, St. Louis

Kary Mangers

Our church undertook a landscape project this past month at church. Our children enjoyed this project a little bit more than
the adults (getting dirty, helping and playing), but laboring together is so much more satisfying than doing it alone and the final product can be so rewarding. Isn’t this true of the toils and trials of this life? To be able to look back and see how the Lord worked in your struggle often by sending others alongside of you for support. And then to see someday, the final product of a faithful life to Him. It will be rewarding!

We were blessed to be able to hold Communion this past month. Our Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor) and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign) were able to join us for this special event along with our annual business meeting and the reading of memorandum. We thank these couples for their special service to the Lord. We would also like to thank the visiting ministers and their wives that provided support this past month. They were Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig (Washington) and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla Frank (Elgin, IA). We pray you ministering brothers could feel our support as you labored for the Lord.

Missouri, Taylor

Marcia Sutter

Sis. Nerys (Peter) Lightner had knee surgery on 4/27/15 and is recuperating very quickly. Many prayers have gone up for her full recovery. Sis. Nerys helps with Prison Ministry at the Palmyra, MO jail and will be missed during her recovery.

Sis. Dona (Bro. Roy) Grimm was hospitalized recently and is now recuperating at home. She has always been very concerned for all of us and we send our love and prayers for her recovery. Her dear family has so tirelessly cared for Bro. Roy and Sis. Dona in their home and we also pray for them.

The Taylor Church welcomes Bro. Tom and Sis. Jolene Young and their three daughters (Sis. Shelby, Sis. Shania and Shayna) who have moved to the Taylor, MO area from Elgin, IL. Also, Steve and Tara (Sutter) Grizzell and their son, James, have moved to Taylor and will be attending church with us.

On 5/6/15 Bro. Tom (Sis. Mary) Lanz from the Oakville-Mediapolis church came and gave our monthly Wednesday night Bible Study on “Grace and Mercy”. We wish him and his family God’s richest blessings for coming to serve us.

Mother’s Day is bittersweet for many people, especially for those who have lost their moms in death or never had a child of their own. We thank all our mothers, including those women who came alongside a child and gave of themselves and made special memories along the way.

A Mother’s Love

“A Mother’s Love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away…”

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking…
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems…
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation…
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand.”

-Helen Steiner Rice

New York, Croghan-Naumburg

Hope Graves

We were thankful to be able to host the Regional Elder Meeting on April 25. We appreciate Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback for traveling here from Akron, OH to help in food preparation for the weekend and the meal Saturday evening. It was a blessing to also have several here from Rockville, CT. We thank them for serving our meal on Sunday. We were able to listen to the Memorandum Saturday evening and were glad that Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) were able to stay with us for the remainder of the weekend. May God richly bless His Work that was accomplished through the meeting of our Elder Brethren.
“Enfold us with Thy loving mercy, O holy Lord, wake us from sleep. That we by Thy good Spirit’s guidance, may onward tread the pathway steep. That for perfection we may strive, the blessedness of love revive! The blessedness of love revive!” Zion’s Harp #76, vs. 3

Prayers have extended out for Sis. Bernice Hirshey and Sis. Barb Ebersol who were hospitalized this past month.

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

We are prayerful for Bro. George and Sis. Tina, Adam, Heidi, Bethany, Danyel, Yasmin, and James Gal as God has provided that Bro. George would serve our congregation in the ministry. We appreciated the efforts of our visiting elders: Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), who willingly assisted the evening of our special service to ordain Bro. George as a minister.

We also are thankful for the other ministers who visited this month: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH).

With gratefulness we share that Trina Miller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Carl Graf welcomed a new grandson, Daniel Alexander, born May 9, joining the family of Tim, Nicola, and Katherine Graf.

Our thoughts and prayers for God’s provision are being offered for Sis. Barb Graf (Bro. Dave) as she is in the hospital.

Our high school graduates this year are Adam Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina), Aaron Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), and Sarah Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona).

Ohio, Columbus

Julie Grimm

We were recently reminded that Jesus alone can satisfy our heart’s desire. Our thirsty souls were satisfied through the Word brought forth by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through visiting Bros. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), Regg Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN), and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA). We appreciate the ministers who travel to support our church through the rotation, as well as the many brethren who visit us with whom we enjoy sweet fellowship. God bless you for your loving support.

Ohio, Junction

Elizabeth Manz

Greetings! Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz are thankful for the safe arrival of another grandson, Xander Martin, born to Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). We pray that this young family will experience God’s blessing and provision as they train up their children to love the Lord.

New life is a precious gift, as we think of a new born child and the purity they represent. May we stand in awe and thank God for the New Life He provides for us through the shed Blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ whereby we can be pure and free from sin!

Ohio, Latty

Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

We find a wonderful hope and courage from God’s Word as we recently celebrated Mother’s Day. Many of us have wonderful memories of our childhood and godly examples from our mothers. May we continue to pass down our precious heritage of faith to the generations following!

Congratulations to the class of 2015 from Latty! Many parents are probably wondering where the time has gone! Sis. Angela Klopfenstein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry), Corbin Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane), Logan Nygaard (Bro. Doug and Sis. Annette), Kory Schlatter (Bro. Eli and Sis. Janel), David Sinn (Bro. Bob Sinn, Sheila Franklin), Gina Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet), and Leah Sinn (Bro. Duane and Carrie) are completing high school. We hope and pray they will each put God first in all their endeavors.
We rejoice with Bro. Arthur Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) as he was recently married to Sis. Wendy Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer, Rittman, OH). We gladly welcome Sis. Wendy to Latty and pray their marriage can be blessed.

Many thanks to Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) for ministering to us recently. We pray he will be blessed for his efforts! Our deepest condolences go out to Sis. Marcia Laukhuf (Elder Bro. John) as her mother, Lois Eddy (Lloyd), passed away May 12. May this family feel our prayers and support through this time of loss.

Ohio, Mansfield
Elizabeth Walter
Scott, Laura, Evelyn and Audrey Gerber joyfully welcome Mary Nicole. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tim & Sis. Wendy Gerber and Joe & Paula Wheeler. We pray that God will bless their growing family!

We were thankful that Michael Ramsey (Bro. Edward & Sis. Michelle) was able to come home after his extended stay in the hospital. May we all praise God for His mercy and the health of this precious little one.

We pray for those of our loved ones who have spent time in the hospital this month: Sis. Miriam Bird, and Bro. Dave Eyerly (Sis. Edna).

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Rex Beer, who recently passed away. We especially remember his wife, Sis. Marilyn, and his children, Bro. Marvin & Sis. Robin Beer and Ron & Donna Beer. May each one find comfort as they adjust in the days ahead.

Congratulations and best wishes to our graduating seniors: Austin Pfeiffer (Henry & Diane), Colin Sauder (Bro. Bruce & Denise), Elijah Sauder (Mark & Diane), Jenna Campo (Roy & Laura), and Paige Sauder (Dale & Dannette). The church family and the graduates enjoyed an early morning breakfast to commemorate this special time. May the Light of Christ be your guide as you embark on a new journey!

Ohio, Rittman
Julie Steiner, Maria Beery
When David ran from King Saul, can you imagine David’s emotional swings? From being chosen as God’s anointed, married into “the royal family”; and then being a victim, hated, and eventually a refugee. Sometimes, our lives are filled with feelings, ranging from being loved and included, to feelings of hurt, or betrayal. It is in times like these, we feel a real connectedness to his feelings, as he confides, “Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear:” The words in Psalm 27:1-4 speak to us in powerful ways. This past month, suffering pain and fear from illness were our dear Sis. Sandy Zollinger, Sis. Violet Baltic (Bro. Mitch), Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart), Bro. Orin Rufener (Sis. Anna), Olivia Gasser (young daughter of Bro. Adam & Sis. Jackie), and Elaine Russell.

“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after.” The Psalmist David makes his goal very clear. This past month, our friends Terry & Dorothy Sample turned to the Lord in repentance. May He grant them daily grace, as they seek this goal.

“That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the day of my life,” This past month, four souls were baptized into the fold. This powerful wish, to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our life, resonated as these four young people, all in the late teens or early twenties, promised faithfulness to God, for the rest of their lives. We rejoice with Bro. Derek Stoller (Bro. Dave & Sis. Jan), Sis. Jolene Hilty (Bro. Roscoe & Sis. Wanda), Sis. Jodi Klotzle (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Jane), and Sis. Julia Klotzle (Bro. John & Sis. Cherie).

“To behold the beauty of the Lord,” David continues to see God’s Hand all around him, in the midst of responsibilities. Likewise, new births, new marriages bring new beauty, amid the special calling of new responsibility. This past month, Jacob Riggenbach (Bro. Bob & Sis. Lori) took Kelsey Geitgey (Ed & Stacey Geitgey) to be his wife. Also, Sis. Wendy Hartzler (Bro. Dan & Sis. Jennifer) became the wife of Bro. Arthur Stoller from Latty (Bro. Craig & Sis. Ruth). New son, Kalvin Lloyd, came
home to Bro. Isaac & Sis. Brittany Steiner, Koriana, and Kenton. Kalvin’s grandparents are Bro. Dave & Sis. Lynn Steiner and Bro. Brian & Sis. Bev Indermuhle. God is able to make all things beautiful, in His time.

David had learned from where his strength came. Because of that, he could share this inspiration with his followers. He asked, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Often, we pray the Word will come forth, not biased by fear or favor of man, but through the Power of the Spirit. Along with David, we pray each would feel His inspiration, as they share strength, light, and salvation.

Thanks go to visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Crohan-Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis), Bro. Charles Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Smithville), and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis).

Ohio, Sardis

Faith Beard

We were well-informed about the Gateway Woods Children’s Home, both current and future programs, when Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf took a weekend to share their experiences with us. We thank them for their time and efforts on the behalf of so many to better inform us of this children’s ministry.

How fulfilling and humbling it can feel when a new life enters our world. And how exciting for our small congregation when our church family has two in one month! Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier became first-time grandparents with the arrival of Oliver Isaia on April 27. His parents are Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier, currently of the Dominican Republic. Then on May 17, Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger were blessed with another grandchild when Solomon Gary was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Charla Leman (Leo, IN). We are so thankful to the Maker for new life, and pray for these new families, both with their first child, as they take on such an awesome and daunting task of raising up a child in His name.

Our congregation gathered together to partake of Holy Communion and consider the wonderful blessing and responsibility of Jesus’ blood and His body. We thank Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner (Washington, IL) for being with us that weekend and helping with this work. Also, we want show further appreciation to Bro. Ron who not only preached the Word from the pulpit on Sunday, but also gave us a presentation on the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. It was good for us to receive more knowledge and awareness of these services.

We are thankful for Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) that she has been able to return to worship at church and also to her other normal daily activities after some overnights in the hospital. Congratulations go out to our high school graduates, Jared Ramsier (Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice) and Mason Indermuhle (Eric and Lisa). We wish these young men God’s blessings and His guidance as they move forward to a new era in their lives.

Ohio, Smithville

Sara Crist, Kara Stoller

We are happy to announce the marriage of Tim Saurer (Sis. Sue Saurer, late Bro. Roger) to Phing Newsom. The two began their lives together in January and they presently reside in Dublin, OH. Congratulations also to the newly-married Bro. Nelson Stoller (Bro. Scott & Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Jessica Steiner (Bro. Rod & Sis. Jill, Rittman, OH). The wedding took place April 12.

Recovering from recent hospital stays are Sis. Jan Indermuhle (late Bro. Darrel), Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez), Travis Bauman (Bro. Roger & Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. Roger Bauman (Sis. Jennifer). We praise our God that He is never far from us. Thank you for all the prayers that were offered on behalf of those in our dear church family in their time of need.

Thank you to our visiting ministers, Bro. Marvin Hartzler
Ohio, Toledo
Deanna Manz, Jenny Manz

On a recent Friday evening, the second annual Women’s Appreciation Supper was served. The men catered a delicious meal to the women and girls of the church! The evening concluded with a singing and fellowship. It was a blessing for all who could be there!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Connie Sancraint (Dave) after her recent surgery. She will have several weeks of therapy. We pray she will feel God’s healing and nearness as she recovers.

If your summer travels bring you near Toledo, we hope you will consider joining us for Sunday or Thursday evening services!

Ontario, Kitchener
Johanna Fortenbacher

Our church had Communion this past weekend in Detroit. Those of us who went had a very blessed time.

Our elder Bro. Mark Bahr and his wife, Sis. Bev, came here midweek. He kindly shared some scripture for us to think on before travelling to have Holy Communion in Detroit. "Search me, O God and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting". Psalm 139:23-24 “and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:23-24. Some of us, unfortunately, had other plans in Rittman on the same weekend.

Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher’s granddaughter, Jolene Hilty, was baptised so that was also a blessed event nevertheless.

We’re also very thankful for the ministers: Bros. Ed Fritz, Washington; Gary & Eddie Anliker, Elgin, IL; and Al Schambach from Remington. We appreciate you coming and feel the love you share with us.

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

Our hearts and prayers go out to Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie (Cooper) Steffen and their son, Nathan and his family. Nathan has been diagnosed with cancer in his lung and throat and started intensive chemo therapy. Prayerful support is requested and will be much appreciated by the Steffen family. The Bible was opened at Psalm 46:1 this past Sunday, how timely for this dear family, dealing now with such a serious illness. May the Lord strengthen them throughout this trial.

Our thanks to the ministers from Silverton, OR, who brought us The Word this past month: Bros. Don (Sis. Linda) Sinn, Harvey (Sis. Jennifer) Kuenzi, Jim (Sis. Tresa) Zollinger and Chris (Sis. Mary) Kuenzi. We enjoyed being with them and their families as well as the song leaders and their families. May God bless you all for your kindness.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones are enjoying being grandparents again. Their son, Tristan, and his wife, Shaelene, from Phoenix, AZ have a new baby son named Wyatt Allen.

Mathis Kuenzi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri) is rejoicing that the Lord has granted him peace with God and man. We look forward to his testimony and baptism.

Once again we spent some time cleaning our church and sprucing up the grounds around it. It always looks so wonderful after fresh bark dust. We are thankful for our trustees who spend countless and thankless hours maintaining the property for all of us to enjoy.

Our hearts go out to Sis. Susan Stadeli (Bro. Greg) in the loss of her brother-in-law, Daniel Rusch (Ruth) from Illinois.

Jared Kuenzi (Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo) and Makayla Cohen-Niehaus are looking forward to being married August 29.

Bro. Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) will be spending the summer in Rockville, CT. We will miss him, and look forward to his return in the fall.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky) from Lester, IA minister to us.
Also, Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) once again was willing to share our pulpit on a Wednesday evening. We appreciate having the Portland brethren with us on those evenings.

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

*Laura Isch*

We have had many graduations this month in Philadelphia! Best wishes to Sis. Lauren Steffen (Bro. Jamin) and Sis. Emily Wiegand (Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle), as they have graduated from college. We are also thankful for Hira Allen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Rika), David Wiegand (Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle) and Walker Metzger (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Sandy) upon their high school graduation. May God lead and bless them as they go on to new chapters in their lives.

**Tennessee, Nashville**

*Mike and Monica Fritz*

Recently Bro. Don Sauder was hospitalized. We are thankful he is home again and doing well.

We rejoice that our daughter, Selena Fritz, has found peace with her Lord and eagerly awaits baptism.

We are always appreciative of our visiting ministers, and the insights they provide from God’s Living Word. Our recent visitors have been: Bros. Chris Wuehrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago), Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette), Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver), and Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of visitors from Bradford, Chicago, and Fairbury, IL; St. Louis and Taylor, MO; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contact Bro. Don & Sis. Faye Sauder, 615.373.8928; or Bro. Buck & Sis. Taunia Henry, 615.920.9584.

**Texas, Austin**

*Candy Meiss*

Sending our love and greetings from Austin!

We have been blessed by much-needed rain the past few weeks. Everything is so green, the creeks are flowing and the lake is filling up. We enjoy our walks and often see a deer quietly grazing in a front yard or along a hillside. The beauty all around is an incredible reminder of God’s love for us.

We have been strengthened in recent weeks by God’s Word shared by visiting ministers: our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign), Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata), and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont). It was a special blessing for our congregation to share Communion together this past month.

Ministers scheduled:
5/24-Smithville and 6/14-Eureka.

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

“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel God’s mighty power and God’s grace.
I can hear the brush of angel’s wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
There’s a holy hush around us,
As God’s glory fills this place.
I’ve touched the hem of God’s garment,
I can almost see God’s face.
and my heart is overflowing with the fullness of God’s joy
and I know, without a doubt, that I’ve been with the Lord.”

-Lanny Wolfe

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us!!

Please refer to our minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

**Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth**

We are thankful for Adam Graf from Akron, OH who recently moved to the area for employment and also Sister Tasia Weiss from Valparaiso, IN. May the Lord be near as they adjust to this transition in their lives.

Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. Please call ahead to verify. Leland and Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.
Vermont, Clarendon  
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Now that the April showers have emptied their storehouse of rain, we are enjoying their products, the May flowers. We are thankful God has caused their beauty to bud and bloom forth this month. Their resurrection from the cold, hard earth reminds us of the resurrection of Jesus from the grave and of the resurrection to life of our cold, stony heart to one of pliability. May God be praised for His marvelous works!

Another beautiful sight this spring month was the presence of visiting ministers. These included two ministers: one from Philadelphia, PA as well as one from Rockville, CT. They are Bro. Jerry (Sis. Linda) Isch and Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter. Both ministers are well-known to us and we appreciate their ministry to us.

Again we wish to invite all to our little church. You are welcome to worship and fellowship with us anytime. Contact Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter at 802-447-2426 or nmrbenn6@gmail.com to let us know when you are planning to be in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:
- Midweek services: contact local brethren
- Sunday AM service: 10:10 AM
- Sunday PM service: 12:15 PM
- Sunday school is held during the morning service

To Not Be Overcome by Temptation

Luke 22:40

Scripture explains what to do to not be overcome by temptation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Lesson about temptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 3</td>
<td>Satan wants to see all believers stumble and will actively work to make it happen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 39</td>
<td>When you are tempted, focus on your relationship with God and obey him.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Samuel 11:2-4</td>
<td>Temptation will come at weak spots and unexpected times.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psalm 51:4</td>
<td>Temptation can lead to sin and its consequences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proverbs 7:1-5</td>
<td>Avoid temptation by storing up God’s commands in your heart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 4:1-11</td>
<td>Combat temptation by using the Word of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 6:13</td>
<td>God doesn’t lead us into temptation, but sometimes he allows believers to be tested by it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 8:7-9</td>
<td>Being tempted is not a sin, but you must not let temptation lead you into sin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 26:40</td>
<td>Watch and pray to avoid falling into sin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 10:13</td>
<td>God will not allow temptations you cannot handle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Timothy 6:11-12</td>
<td>To avoid temptation, you must fight as in a battle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Timothy 2:22</td>
<td>At times you may need to turn and run from temptation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrews 2:16-18</td>
<td>Because Jesus Christ was tempted, he understands how you feel and knows how to help you resist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 1:12-16</td>
<td>You sometimes cause your own temptations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James 4:7-8</td>
<td>Submit to God; resist the devil.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The News & 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 & Notices

Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker Needed- Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work partially with adoptive families and partially with hurting children and families in our Home-Based Program. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

Jeff Waibel
Director of Clinical Services
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
jeffwaibel@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell: 260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Alternate Houseparent Needed - Gateway Woods

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to a change in staff, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. This position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore this possibility, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Clint Plattner
Residential Program Manager
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell: 260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com
Summer Worship Services - July 19 and July 26 in Colorado
Breckenridge River Mountain Lodge in Summit County

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following location: 100 South Park Avenue, Breckenridge, CO 80424
Office: (970) 453-4711

Breckenridge is located in Summit County. If you take the Frisco exit on Interstate 70, Breckenridge is about 9 miles past Frisco on Highway 9. It is less than 2 hours from Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista. There is free parking available in lots north and south of the entrance that are only about a 5 minute walk away.

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be supporting the service; however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort also if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don’t want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations.

For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. (303) 696-1301 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

2015
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES
Clyde Park, Montana

Saturday June 27th
Clyde Park Community Center
3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration and Fellowship
5:00 Evening Meal
Hymn Singing in Evening

Sunday June 28th
Clyde Park Community Center
Church Services
10:15 am and 12:30 pm

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2015, please contact one of the following Bros.
From Lester
Wes Moser 712-478-4622
or 712-395-2025
Eugene Metzger 712-472-2187
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647
or 612-963-0089
From Silvertown
Greg Wackerle 803-873-7463

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT
Comfort Inn (406-222-4400) will have a block of rooms available under Apostolic Christian or Bob Metzger
There are a number of campgrounds and rental homes in the area.

It is helpful if those attending can bring their own; Bibles, Zion’s Harps, and Hymn’s of Zion
Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses
A day tour of the area will be organized for those interested on Friday June 26th
Caretaker Needed for Tennessee Fellowship Area

With the planned relocation of the current caretakers, Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their family, in May 2015, the TN Fellowship Board of Directors is seeking to fill the position of Caretaker for this property which includes a two-acre lake. For those who may consider God’s call to this work, this is a fulfilling opportunity to care for this property, support the Athens, Alabama church and spread the Gospel into the surrounding communities.

Position Description
As caretakers, the couple or family would live in the property apartment, which can comfortably accommodate 2-6 people. In addition to keeping up the apartment, they would also be responsible for:

- Grounds Keeping – primarily mowing the grass, weeding flower beds and spraying weeds.
- Lake Richard Maintenance – feeding the fish, chemical administration for moss and algae and aerator maintenance.
- Preparation, hosting (as applicable) and cleanup for activities held on the property annually including Memorial Day Weekend and Homecoming Weekend.

Desired Personal Qualities
- Servant Heart – willingness to serve as a caretaker and support a smaller Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Alabama.
- Enjoy working outside.
- Integrity – demonstrate high spiritual standards and be a committed Christ-follower.

For More Information Contact:
Tom Waldbeser, TN Fellowship Board and Elder of the Athens church
Phone: 678.416.6586 Email: twald2010@att.net

Phil Witzig, TN Fellowship Board President
Phone: 815.200.9555 Email: pwitzig@kuhlco.com

Mark Klaus, TN Fellowship Board and Athens Church Minister
Phone: 256.777.7777 Email: flyhi55@aol.com

About the Tennessee Fellowship Area / Athens Church
The Tennessee Fellowship Area is a place where Apostolic Christian people can come from across the nation to worship God in a quiet country setting, enjoy fellowship and/or hold events. In all activities, our Heavenly Father and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be honored. In addition to Memorial Day Weekend activities (that have occurred for 22 years) and Homecoming, the area is also used for picnics and fishing. Families traveling in the area can also stay overnight using camping facilities and RV hookups.

The Athens Apostolic Christian Church is located approximately a half-hour south of the property. The property and the church are located in the Bible Belt where Southern hospitality abounds. The church is also home to the Athens, AL Preschool.
Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families:
Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday Service: (held monthly at guesthouse residence) 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
For schedule, see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
   Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork
   4733 Birdie Lane NW
   Rochester, MN 55901
   (507) 288-0072

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
   Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
   (507) 281-2875

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*Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3*

Together we can provide Bibles for seeking people. This may be someone you attend school with, someone you work with, or someone God has shown you at a gas station. Bibles and approved Bible story Books are available. Carrying a New Testament to distribute can help you remember what our real task is. To order, contact:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141
bibledistribution@acpublications.org

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Mentors Needed – The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida

Mentoring at The New Beginnings is a way for those who feel called to share God’s unconditional love with hurting single mothers and their children. The New Beginnings is looking for mentor couples who are outreach-minded and called by God to come join us in building relationships with these mothers. We currently have a need for young families with children, couples who may be empty-nesters and have the experience of already raising their children and for experienced single sister mentors.

Please prayerfully consider this mission and helping single mothers. Contact us for more information concerning this opportunity.

The New Beginnings
4810 Marine Dr.
Cape Coral FL, 33904
239.541.4312
thenewbeginningsofswfl@yahoo.com

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Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact:
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(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

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Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. *AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.*

651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing  
Washington, IL  
August 29 & 30, 2015

Lord willing, the Washington congregation will be hosting the 2015 Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. We have been blessed with a rich heritage of hymn singing, and our goal for the weekend is to glorify God through song as well as record a CD that will be uplifting for many in the future.

The website www.acmensing.com has been updated, and will be the main source of information about the Men’s Sing and will also be used as the preferred method for sending out further communications. From the website, you are able to register, get directions, see the schedule of activities, view the music, and much more. Please bookmark this site, create an account, and register for the Men’s Sing.

If you plan to attend, please register by July 1, 2015 so we can accurately prepare for meals and accommodations. Please also spread this communication to any other brothers interested. It would also be helpful if there was a designated brother from each church who could keep us updated on the number of brothers attending from your church. If you are unable to access the internet, you may write or call:

Matt Wyss  
216 W. Robinson St.  
Goodfield, IL 61742  
Phone: 309-397-5919  
Email: mattwyss@yahoo.com

50-Year Commemoration of Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church  
August 29 & 30, 2015

If you have previously attended the Fairbury Church, you are cordially invited to attend a commemoration in recognition of 50 years since our current church building was erected and dedicated.

Saturday, 6:30 P.M. at FAIRBURY FELLOWSHIP HALL  
Singing and Historical Presentation

Sunday, 10:00 A.M. at FAIRBURY APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Worship services 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
Light meal served immediately following afternoon service

PLEASE REPLY BY JULY 15 if you plan to attend the Saturday program, come to worship with us on Sunday, stay for the meal, and/or need overnight accommodations.  
Contact: Duane and Arlene Kilgus: timberline44@frontier.com, (815) 692-2589 or (815) 848-2589
Haiti Medical Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jun 13-20</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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Project Year 2016

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Haiti Work Teams - Lifeline

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<td>Neil Bahler</td>
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<td>Lifeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:nbahler@gmail.com">nbahler@gmail.com</a></td>
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Jamaica Work Teams

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<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Jun 27-04</td>
<td>Harvey Landis</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>330-466-8274</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:landziv@aol.com">landziv@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lifeline@Email.Phoenix.edu">lifeline@Email.Phoenix.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at <a href="mailto:lmdettwyler@gmail.com">lmdettwyler@gmail.com</a></td>
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Haiti Awareness Tours

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 World Relief projects in southern Haiti. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand and the next two are Sept. 12-16, 2015 and Mar. 4-9, 2016.

To learn more, contact: Rich Bertelschi at 309.467.2351 or lelangm@mtco.com

Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com

June 2015  SILVER LINING  57
Haiti Volunteers Are Needed

Medical Teams
Physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, laboratory techs, radiology techs, ultrasound techs, occupational and physical therapists, nurses and other specialists who are willing to assist with general medical and surgical care are invited to participate on weeklong medical teams. See the current schedule (including dates for 2016).

Construction Teams
Electricians, cabinet makers, plumbers and carpenters are needed to continue the renovations. The work is great. This is an excellent opportunity to help in the work and become more familiar with the culture and Hospital Lumiere campus. See the current schedule.

Church Ministers
The work at Hospital Lumiere is more than material and the needs are more than physical. The Hospital staff and the team workers understand the true objective is that all may come to know and glorify God through a born again life, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and living in obedience to the Bible. Apostolic Christian Church ministers are needed to assist in this role as they accompany medical and construction teams to Hospital Lumiere. Team ministers coordinate daily devotions and provide spiritual support for the team members, hospital staff, patients and their families. For more information contact Rich Bertschi at 309-467-2351 or lemangm@mtco.com.
**Medical Director Needed at Hospital Lumiere**

*If you are a licensed physician with a God-inspired desire to provide medical care and leadership in an under-served part of Haiti, this may be the opportunity of a lifetime.*

**The Need**

A licensed physician is needed to replace our Medical Director, Dr. Lee Klopfenstein, when his term is completed in 2016.

To fill this full-time position, one must have a U.S. medical license, be Board-Certified in some aspect of medicine or surgery, be a Believer in Jesus Christ, have experience in leadership and management, be capable of learning the Creole language, and be willing to reside with your family on the Hospital Lumiere campus for up to five years. The position involves leading a team of excellent Haitian physicians and surgeons, and oversight of the nursing, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy departments of this 120-bed full-service hospital and out-patient facility.

**For more information contact:**
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748

**Patient Care Manager Needed at Hospital Lumiere**

*Hospital Lumiere is seeking a qualified person to be assigned as Patient Care Manager of the hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti. This is full-time position.*

**Description**

The duties of Patient Care Manager include planning, supervising & training employees and coordinating & implementing programs of nursing care for all hospital patients.

**Requirements**

Applicants should hold an RN degree and have at least 3 years of nursing experience, some management capability, be able to learn the Creole language, be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and be willing to relocate to Haiti for a term of up to 5 years.

**For more information contact:**
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748
The appropriate use of technology is of increasing focus today. ACCFS has developed numerous resources to assist individuals, parents, and the church family in this area. An expanded version of this Technology Principles paper, 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.

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website: www.acpublications.org

After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.

The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13

To sponsor a child

To sponsor a student fill out this form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name __________________________
□ Mr. □ Mrs. □ Miss
Spouse __________________________
Address _________________________
City ____________St ___ Zip _____
Home Ph _________________________
Cell Ph _________________________
Email ___________________________

Please check preference:
□ Haiti □ Guatemala
□ Mexico □ Jamaica
□ Zambia □ Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:
□ Boy – Age ________
□ Girl – Age ________
□ No Preference

Cost: $30.00/month
For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:
ACWR Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

www.acworldrelief.org
Volunteer Caretakers Needed – Washington, D.C.

The Washington, DC church caretaker program is entering its eighth year. It has been such a blessing for our visiting caretakers as well as our local members and friends. We are taking reservations for 2016. Our church home is located in Silver Spring, MD, and meets both church and residential needs.

The fellowship that caretakers provide is vital to our small congregation and visiting ministers. Caretakers can be couples, singles or families who would enjoy spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast. Caretakers would perform routine household and yard maintenance chores, and should plan to stay at least three Sundays.

Families with children are urged to give this opportunity prayerful consideration. We have three children (pre-teen and teen), who would welcome other children in their Sunday School class.

For more information, please contact:
Barry and Doreen Steffen
Phone: 302-540-6574
Email: dkgsteffen@gmail.com.

Teacher Needed – Athens Preschool

There is currently a teaching position available at the Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL. We are looking for a preschool teacher who is willing to start in June of 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity to support one of our smaller congregations.

This is a paid position with medical benefits. Church housing is available. Applicants must be at least 19 years old and be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. Basic computer skills are necessary.

If you have questions contact Sis. Kalla Knobloch at (309) 231-1755.
You may also e-mail your resume to acpreschool2015@gmail.com.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Kindergarten Teacher Needed - Light House Academy

Light House Academy in Peoria, IL, is looking to hire a part-time kindergarten teacher for the coming school year. Candidates should be born-again believers, with teaching certification a plus, but not a requirement. The position has the possibility of involving additional hours pending our incoming enrollment.

Please contact Perry Kieser 309.238.0300 or rsi.perry@gmail.com for more information.
Teaching Position Available - Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has an opening for a teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and/or an active teacher’s license, preferably in Social Studies or Science. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Adam McAfee                 Lynn Stieglitz
Director of Education      Counseling Elder
PO Box 125,                 15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765               New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283           260.466.6712
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org lynnstieg@gmail.com

Responsibilities of Fathers

Gen. 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Deut. 6:6-7 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Prov. 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Prov. 22:7 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Isa. 38:19 the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Lam. 2:19 Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children,

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

1 Tim. 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

1 Tim. 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.
understand the fullness of the Gospel. Perhaps we can summarize it like this:

God’s commands are not simply random rules.

God commands us to do good unto others and abstain from actions that harm others.

He recognized that as humans, we are incapable of this on our own.

From the beginning it was planned that Jesus would shed His blood to redeem us – to reconcile our disobedience to Himself – and to carry that load for us.

He did not pay that price so that we can freely continue pleasing self. We are bought with a price and are not our own anymore.

We are purchased by the blood of Jesus for the express purpose of obeying God’s commands and demonstrating the love of God to all men.

His commands are both broad and specific. Grand instructions to put off obvious sins such as lying, adultery and the like are followed by very specific instruction to encourage each other with hymns and spiritual songs. Magnificent entreaties to abound in mercy and love are followed by a very specific instruction that fathers ought not to provoke children to wrath. The Holy Spirit moving in the Apostles brought to their remembrance all that Jesus taught them. They shared it with the early church (and us)—demonstrating that God understands the big picture and also sees the details that make up that big picture. As God’s children, we are called to obedience in both great commandments and small.

We can do none of this without the graciousness of God providing us with the overwhelming power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish these things. Nobody can do these things of their own strength. But if we have been “born (again) of our Father,” we will love to be like Him. If we have His Spirit, we will love to act like Him. If we spend time in His presence, we will love to imitate Him, just as a little boy picks up a tool and tries to imitate his father. He calls us both to have confidence in His ability and to be diligent in our personal efforts.

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13).

“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (2 Pet. 3:14).

Put quite simply, He calls us to both Trust and Obey—in the great commandments and in the small.

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Obedience

— Continued from pg. 3

Duties of Husbands

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<th>Passage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. 2:24</td>
<td>Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prov. 5:18</td>
<td>Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.</td>
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<td>Eccl. 9:9</td>
<td>Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.</td>
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<td>Eph. 5:25</td>
<td>Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;</td>
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<td>1 Peter 3:7</td>
<td>Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.</td>
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and we try to help them develop aspirations for their future.”

**One specific example**
The Apostolic Christian Church child sponsorship program works closely with selected Christian education partners in the countries we serve. In Haiti, one of our partners is Help a Child in Haiti (HCH), administered by Ms. Adline Cameus.

Adline was born in poverty in a northern rural area in Haiti. At an early age, her family was abandoned by her father, and her mother was unable to provide for Adline and her four siblings. The children ended up living with another family, who also couldn’t provide enough food or afford education. Finally, when Adline was eight years old, she was fortunate to be selected for a child sponsorship program at the school in her village. It changed her life forever. Adline recalls the letters she received from her sponsor who told her that he loved her, the very first time in her life she had heard those words from anyone. She also remembers that he was proud of her accomplishments which inspired her to do well in school to please him. In addition, she was introduced to the Gospel message, and like many of us, experienced a life-changing moment when she answered the Lord’s call at the age of 22.

Now, Adline lives in Les Cayes with her husband, Loumy, and three wonderful children. Because of her experience as a sponsored child, she has dedicated her life as a missionary to reach thousands of Haitian children by providing a Christ-centered education.

**Prayer request**
Please prayerfully consider becoming a sponsor for a child in need. Who knows . . . by saving one starfish, you may be able to impact hundreds of others in the future.

**Watch Adline Interview**
A five-minute video of an interview with Adline is available at www.acworldrelief.org/childsponsorship.

**Technology**
— Continued from pg. 9

or are you simply looking for support for your own preconceived thoughts?

- How have you sought out wisdom from experienced, proven believers on this topic (Prov. 24:6)?

For further discussion and study on the appropriate use of technology, readers are encouraged to review the *Guidance on Using Technology* paper available on the Apostolic Christian Church website (www.apostolicchristian.org/resources).
that even friendliness and love is likewise nothing special, when the sun is shining beautifully and it is convenient to be friendly. But to bear such fruits during raw winter days, that is something else. So should a Christian in tribulation be able to prove himself a Christian, as he remains in in friendly relations in such days, as the Apostle Paul says (2 Cor. 6): “But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness, by knowledge, by long suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

The leaves of a tree represent, as an example, a man’s words. Among the nominal Christians, they may find such leaves as the Lord found there to be enough, namely beautiful words or the like. But beautiful leaves are not what counts; rather, the Lord is seeking fruit. If the Lord were satisfied with empty words, then there would be many Christians. But because He seeks fruit – longsuffering, humility, peace, faith and love – he comes to many people where he does not find it. We should take care that our Christianity does not consist of empty words. As the Lord sought fruit on the fig tree, so he seeks fruit among us and a tree is known by its fruit.

Just as a tree must draw its strength for fruitfulness from the earth, so must the Christian draw his fruitfulness from the Lord; and this occurs through heartfelt prayer and fellowship with the Lord. And through this we are strengthened, that we may prove fruitful in all good words and deeds.

May the Lord grant that even in this present hour we may be strengthened to increase in all good works, so that the Lord may find not only leaves, but also fruit in us and that the curse would not be pronounced, but the blessing of the Lord may rest on us in this and the future world, and that the Lord may say: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”
Incidents of our foreparents coming to America from Europe as immigrants are continued below. Excerpts are taken from Marching To Zion.

The John Adam Meiss Family
The family of John Adam Meiss left the village of Vollerdingen in Alsace-Lorraine for the great trip to America. They traveled to Paris and then on to Le Harve where they stayed overnight at a hotel. The next morning they arose and boarded the new ship, “The Normandy”. It was a beautiful day when they began their ocean voyage, and good weather lingered the entire trip with the exception of one day when the stormy weather caused some of them to experience sea-sickness. There were fifteen persons in their party and they traveled second class.

One of their descendents wrote, “One particular memory of the voyage was about the French waiters, young boys, who wanted to be friendly with them, but with whom they could not exchange many words since they could not speak each other’s language.

The John Adam Eisenmann Family
John Adam Eisenmann eventually became an elder at the Cissna Park, Illinois congregation. The ship carrying this family encountered a severe storm on the ocean. Many passengers had given up hope and resigned themselves that the ship would sink. Amid the despair, one of the Eisenmann children became very sick, and Grandmother Eisenmann held it in her arms, expecting it to die. The unwavering faith of the elder Eisenmann kept him on his knees praying for the poor little child.

Suddenly, someone appeared and gave the child some medicine. The child immediately responded and began to show improvement, and at the same time the storm abated. Grandmother Eisenmann was convinced that God sent an angel to minister to them because, during the remainder of the trip, she never could find anyone on the ship who resembled the man who gave medicine to the sick child.

Concerning another matter, Elder Eisenmann felt that on Sunday -- a day of rest -- a person should not read anything that did not pertain to the Bible or matters of faith (p. 241, Marching To Zion).

The John Adam Reeb Family
In 1889, Elder John Adam Reeb and family crossed the ocean on the ship, “La Gascogne”. Some were skeptical that the huge vessel might sink, but one faithful soul said, ‘Oh, no, Minister Reeb is with us, and I know God would not let anything happen to us.’ Often, in the evening, whoever was able (and wasn’t seasick) would go on deck and sing hymns from the Zion’s Harp Hymnal. Elder Reeb liked to sing the song, “God Is Still with Me.” (#148)

The Name “John Adam”
The use of men whose given and middle names were John Adam was not initially intended in this article. It just happened that way. All three men had connections with Cissna Park, IL when they came to America. In citing conditions of families crossing the Atlantic Ocean, my focus fell on these men, and it turned out the name “John Adam” turned up in the patriarchs of the Eisenmann, Reeb, and Meiss families.

-By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
The man who baptized Samuel Froehlich.
God Uses Fathers

The father figure is very important to both boys and girls. Every child, both needs and deserves a father and a mother. If for some reason one or the other is missing, a relative or friend should try to fill the gap. Boys should learn to be masculine and girls should learn to be feminine.

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.” Psalm 103:13. Here a father is spoken of as one who pitieth his children. He relates to his children and he is concerned for his children. Also, our Heavenly Father pitieth those who fear Him.

“For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” Proverbs 3:12. Fathers are there to correct their sons and daughters, if they see that something isn’t right. Also, our Heavenly Father corrects us if we do something that is not right, providing we are willing to listen to the Holy Spirit.

“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” Mark 9:24. This father requested the healing of his son by the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus asked if he believed. The father with tears, and with some doubt about his faith, could only cry out, “Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.” This shows a father’s love and concern for his children, and it also shows humility about his faith. Yet his faith was sufficient for the healing of his son. Humility, with even a small amount of faith, is honored by God.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son in St. Luke, chapter 15, the father gave his younger son his inheritance ahead of time, perhaps expecting him to use it wisely. However, fathers sometimes have disappointments and sometimes they are blamed when they mean well, such as when the father celebrated the home coming of his prodigal son. Yet God uses fathers. Many children who have no father wind up in prison. That is so sad. Fathers, God wants to use us, so let’s strive to fulfill our high calling.

Speaking of Esther, “Whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.” Esther 2:7. Mordecai was Esther’s cousin, but evidently much older than she. He took it upon himself to be a father unto her and it filled a great need in her life. She conferred with him about everything and she took his advice. Mordecai is a good example for us to follow.

An example of a father’s love for his son is found in Genesis 37:3. “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.” Israel is another name for Jacob. A mother has a very strong tie with her children, but a father also has a very close tie with his children. We fathers need to cultivate that tie by paying attention to our children and grandchildren. Let’s correspond with them, love them, and encourage them.

Fathers’ Day is meant to honor fathers and to show them proper respect. This they deserve. But it is also a time for fathers to be reminded of the great importance they play in the lives of their children and in other people all around them. Fathers should lovingly take the leadership role in the home and set a shining example of someone who serves the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart, soul, and body. Fathers, many people are watching you and looking for guidance and encouragement, to do what is good and proper and in accordance with God’s Word, the Bible. God uses fathers.

-By Willis Ehnle
So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19