



AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER



Summer Worship

Don't Forget to Worship

We begin our last month of the summer with some important truths about Jesus. We will hear messages that tell us when we eat and drink of Jesus we will never hunger and thirst again. Again, what does Jesus mean when He offers us this promise of eternal life? During the month of August we will be looking at the 6th chapter of John. Spend some quiet time reflecting on these words of Jesus. How do you think the first hearers understood these words? How do you understand them? How does our world understand them? Join us on Sundays as we explore these questions and more. And if you will be gone on the weekend, please join us for worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

August 5 – (John 6:24-35) – **Pentecost 11**

Christ, the bread of life (Part I)

Bible study/discussion on Life-Changing Prayer begins at 8:30 a.m.

August 12 – (John 6:35, 41-51) – **Pentecost 12**

Christ, the bread of life (Part II)

Tanzania Mission Team shares during potluck after worship

August 19 – (John 6:51-58) – **Pentecost 13**

Jesus, the true food and drink

August 26 – (John 6:56-69) – **Pentecost 14**

The bread of eternal life

Adult Sunday School Class

Beginning August 5 at 8:30 a.m. promptly

“Life-Changing Prayer: Approaching the Throne of Grace”

The entire congregation is being invited to join Pastor Steve in the fellowship hall for six sessions called “**Life-Changing Prayer: Approaching the Throne of Grace.**” This class with Pastor Steve will be a DVD Bible study led by Pastor Jim Cymbala of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York City. Pastor Cymbala has seen incredible things happen when a congregation gathers and commits itself to prayer. In this Bible study he shares his story and insight of the power of prayer. His Tuesday night prayer service is the most powerful service of the week. I would like to share his story and, more importantly, the power of prayer with you during the months of August and September.

His study is based on Hebrews 4:16 where we are told that we can always “approach God's throne of grace with confidence” knowing that you will “receive mercy and find grace” to help you in your time of need. We will start promptly at 8:30 a.m. so that we have plenty of time to learn, listen and discuss each weekly topic. We will meet until 9:45 (75 minutes). Each person who signs up will have their own

Pastor Stephen J. Lund

1100 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701
Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thur, 8:30-12:30 Fri
Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

402.379-1775
christtheservant@cableone.net
Sunday school at 9:00 for all ages

study guide. Our weekly format will be: Opening Reflection, Icebreaker Question; Video Teaching (24 minutes); Group Discussion; Closing Prayer with Between-Sessions Personal Study Time. We will miss two Sundays as noted below. Dates and topics will be:

August 5 – Throne of Grace
August 12 – Receiving Mercy
August 19 – Perfect Peace from God
August 26 – Praying with Faith (Develop Your Life)
September 2 – **NO CLASS** (Labor Day weekend)
September 9 – **NO CLASS** (Rally Day Celebration)
September 16 - God Brings the Answer (Encourage Your Life)
September 23 – The Church that Prays Together (Choose Your Life)

*** The Truth Project will follow, beginning on October 7

Worship on Wednesday

6:30 p.m.

During the month of August we will be concluding our summer series on the book of Acts and the early church. Our summer series was divided into three different themes: (1) **June**: The Church in Jerusalem: God's Vision for His Church, (2) **July**: Satan's Counterattack to God's Church, and (3) **August**: Foundations for World Missions. Join us this month as we look at the foundations of world missions.

August 1 – Setting the Foundation for World Missions

August 8 – Stephen's Witness and Martyrdom

August 15 – Philip and the Ethiopian leader

August 22 – The Conversion of Saul

August 29 – The Conversion of Cornelius

Sunday School Rally Day

Sunday, September 9

Rally Day is the beginning of the Sunday school year. Rally Day is held the Sunday after Labor Day. It is a fun day, a day to begin our exploration of the Bible and the many stories within it. Amanda Cyboron will be our superintendent again this year. She is planning on having one large group teaching sessions with all the grades (with teacher assistants). She is excited to begin again and has lots of ideas. Watch for a special invitation to attend Rally Day on September 9.

Dry Walling Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

After August 19

This is a reminder to the congregation that the church building will be undergoing a major upgrade in the near future. The inside walls of the sanctuary and fellowship hall (which are presently cement blocks) will be dry walled and painted. This is a memorial project given by the Galen Thompson family. The dates are not certain, but the project will begin sometime after August 19. Once the project begins we may move worship into the fellowship hall. We ask for your patience and your willingness to move about to accommodate the project.

PASTOR STEVE'S LETTER: "EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF GOD"

One of my favorite times of the year is to refresh my spirit and attitude during my yearly vacation in one of the cabins at the Lewis and Clark Resort by the marina in Yankton. My family stays for 5 nights where there are a multitude of things to do and each person is free to spend each day as each person desires (ride the bike trail along the lake, swim, boat, sit by the fire, relax, nap, read, etc.). As always, we have certain traditions we all do together (eat supper together, ride the go carts, eat at Dairy Dock, to name a few). One of my favorite things to do is read a book or two in a lawn chair looking out at the lake above the dam. I usually like to do this early in the morning before everyone is up (another good time is in the middle of the afternoon). This year I was drawn again toward one of A.W. Tozer's books (you may remember one of his books we used for Lent entitled *The Crucified Life*). Tozer has a way of centering my faith with his Christ-centered, God-exalting, no-nonsense approach. If he were still alive today he would be cringing at the nature of the church today in America. Many have lost the message of the "crucified life" and have made the church into a "feel good" atmosphere where no one wants to offend another with the nature of the gospel. His writings are needed in our "noisy, thrill-a-minute, whatever-feels-good-is-okay culture. That is, we are all sinners and stand in the need of a savior. We need to die to self so that the new life that Christ brings will be more evident in our lives. So last week I sat down to read one of his books entitled *Experiencing the Presence of God (Teachings from the book of Hebrews)*.

As I began to read this collection of his works, Tozer painted a stark picture of a much-needed-wake-up call for anyone who truly wants to worship God. His book left me enriched and challenged. I was so challenged that I am planning on using his book for our WNA evenings this fall. I will encourage those who attend to purchase a copy of the book so that we can work through it together. Tozer's greatest discovery in life is this: "to understand what God's presence in the Christian's life is all about and to experience it." The scriptural reference behind this possibility to "experience" God is based on a degree of intimacy that is both progressive and dynamic. The apostle Paul said, "That I may know him, and the power of the resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto death" (Philippians 3:10). So our goal each day is this: "to know God in an increasing level of intimacy from day to day."

Tozer believes (as many do) that . . .

"In the deep recesses of man's soul lies an overwhelming yearning toward the Creator. This is a common thread through all humanity, created in the image of God. Unless and until that desire is fully met, the human soul remains restless, constantly striving for that which is ultimately unattainable."

As a result (due to our sinful nature), we have this deep longing inside of us. However, most do not know that this desire can only be met by God. As St. Augustine put it long ago: "Thou hast created us for Thyself and we are restless until we rest fully in Thee." This longing explains, to a great degree, that spirit of restlessness that pervades every generation and every culture where we are always striving but never coming to the knowledge of the truth of God's presence.

(continued)

So what do most people do? Listen again to Tozer's words:

“The average person, unable to understand this passion for intimacy with God, fills his life with things, hoping somehow to satisfy his inward longing. He chases that which is exterior, hoping to satisfy that inner thirst, but to no avail.”

The greatest hindrance, of course, is the fact that God is unapproachable. Sin has created an unmanageable debt for all humanity. The good news, however, is that Christ has paid the debt and bridged the gap to God for all. The problem, says Tozer, is that . . .

“Many people like their religion in a nice neat formula—something they can do without much effort or thought. These days everybody has some shortcut into the blessings of God's presence: ‘Five easy steps to happiness’ or ‘Ten easy steps to get everything you want from God.’ However, there is no nice neat formula for this. Rather, we need to whet the spiritual appetite for that which it truly craves: the presence of God.”

I hope that you will join us on Wednesday evenings (WNA) which will begin on September 5. If you can't join us, purchase a book and read through it. We will be having short discussions on it at our WNA this fall. I do know that Jesus promised this in the Beatitudes: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be FILLED.”

May we fan the flame of a holy desire toward knowing God!

Pastor Steve

I will be starting another Journey group in September.
Each Journey group is limited to 10-12 people.

Board of Administration
June 18, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Warren Bennett, Jan Puls, Pat Witte
Absent: Steve Freese, Richard Hillrichs, Wanda Muhs

Jan called this meeting to order, and Warren offered the opening prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes stand as written.

There were no bills to be approved. The financial report was reviewed, and Pat offered a motion to approve, seconded by Warren. Motion carried.

Jan reported that there was \$23,924.73 in the checking account as of May 31.

Pat reported that a visitor card was sent to a former member who recently worshiped with us, as well as a 50th anniversary card to Dennis and Linda Miller.

T&H Drywalling was to begin installing drywall the first of August; however, there is a wedding scheduled for August 18. Kathy will check with Pastor as we may need to advise T&H to postpone their start date.

Pastor Steve asked Jan to bring up the following item for discussion, that is, permission to store a baby grand piano here for 1-2 years. However, since Warren had previously made a similar request and been denied, Pastor's request was also denied.

There being no further business, Warren offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat. Motion carried.

This was the last meeting of the Board of Administration.

2018 Income & Expenses		
	June	YTD
Income		
Member Offerings	12,966.19	85,344.21
Non Member Offering	330.00	1,560.00
Coffee Hour Donations	40.98	246.93
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)	690.00	1,965.04
Designated Church Property	520.00	2,455.26
Designated Memorials	-	2,355.00
Designated Day Camp	500.00	500.00
Designated Missions	310.00	1,925.00
Designated A Cyboron	70.00	340.00
Designated B Cyboron	50.00	300.00
Designated Weich	20.00	40.00
Designated Rystrom	-	50.00
Designated Day Care/income	2,771.45	25,270.22
Designated Good Samaritan	50.00	300.00
Designated Tanzania & Travel	72.00	5,146.00
Total	18,390.62	127,797.66
Interest Income	3.00	16.43
Total	18,393.62	127,814.09
Expenses		
Administration	8,372.52	53,056.62
Church Building	7,805.34	23,574.01
Parsonage	353.25	2,147.84
Discipleship	1,365.95	2,419.26
Fellowship/Evangelism	250.45	1,381.54
Church Mission Giving	1,200.00	7,725.00
Local Benevolence	786.96	2,465.96
Stewardship		183.64
Worship	128.71	1,904.24
Misc (WNA, books, flowers, reimburse)		722.36
Day Care	6,427.36	34,489.32
Total	26,690.54	130,069.79
Income Statement		
General Income	14,600.17	94,117.87
Less General Expenses	20,263.18	95,580.47
Church General Income	(5,663.01)	(1,462.60)
Day Care Income	2,771.45	25,270.22
Less Day Care Expenses	6,427.36	34,489.32
Net Day care Income	(3,655.91)	(9,219.10)
Net Church Total Income	(9,318.92)	(10,681.70)
Day Care Income & Expenses		
Donations & Grants	-	3,100.00
Other (private fees)	360.38	9,283.20
State Reimbursement(fees & food)	2,411.07	12,887.02
Total Income	2,771.45	25,270.22
Payroll Wages	4,999.85	28,340.38
FICA Expense	369.14	2,138.31
Food & Supplies	442.00	2,874.44
Training		95.00
Other	616.37	1,041.19
Total Expenses	6,427.36	34,489.32
Day Care Net Income	(3,655.91)	(9,219.10)

Board of Spiritual Oversight
June 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Jessen, Pastor Steve, Brian Anderson, Doug Witte, Deb Olson
Absent: Linda Cyboron

Pastor shared a devotion on laying down one's life from "My Utmost for His Highest," and led the opening prayer. He then provided an update on Cherlyn Hillrichs, who is currently in ICU.

Brian offered a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Doug; motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed, and it was noted that offerings are down.

The proposed new constitution was unanimously approved at the June 3 annual meeting. Nominations are due June 24 with elections to take place July 1 (Pastor Steve will be gone that day, but Steve J. will be present). Those elected should then gather to set a date and time to meet. New council members will be installed during worship July 8. The Tanzania group is leaving July 17 and will be commissioned during worship July 15.

Reports

Worship: Brian shared about "Climbing Sunday" on June 10 and would like to do two more before they leave (July 1 and 15). When he gets back, they will start working on the sound system prior to dry-walling (taking down speakers, covering the sound area with plastic to keep out dust).

Youth: Steve shared that the group hasn't met the last two weeks, but they did yard cleanup at Roger Young's, which went great. We will learn on Friday how many daycamp counselors are coming. Kelcie and Ethan will help paint the cardboard for daycamp, but can only do so during the day. Doug offered his help with daycamp. Regarding who pays for the food, keep receipts and turn in purchase orders designated "Daycamp." Grocery store credit cards can be used. Those planning to attend the meals on Sunday and Thursday evenings are asked to bring a salad; burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Steve reported that host homes are set up for all of the camp counselors. He shared that we will pray over the daycamp on Sunday night.

Hospitality and Fellowship: Deb shared that Father's Day treats were handed out Sunday. Boomfire is June 30; meet here at 5:00. They will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs, and will provide drinks and chips. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or side dish. They will have indoor and outdoor games, then we'll gather in the parking lot to watch the fireworks as we've done the last couple of years.

They will be walking in Norfolk's 4th of July parade, and anyone is welcome to join them. They will be decorating Mike Finkral's trailer for this, and those who can't walk are invited to ride. The hospitality committee also offered to help on June 24 when the camp counselors arrive. No activities are planned for August at this time.

Pastor: He will be on vacation July 1 (Charlie will fill in for him) and July 22 (Bob Blank from the Norfolk Rescue Mission will preach). He shared that they had a great time and turnout for the Rescue Mission picnic earlier this month.

Beginning July 8, he will be offering a course on Life-Changing Prayer by Jim Cymbala starting at 8:30 (75-minute sessions). He will ask the kids who attended confirmation camp to share about their experiences this Sunday. Four youth received their First Communion last Sunday, and Ethan Wolfe will receive his this Sunday. He noted there were lots of family present for this. Next year, confirmation camp is the Bible year, so he will be incorporating that into their study this year.

Ade Pederson led worship June 3rd and said we paid her too much, so she gave some back. She did a great job. Pastor wants to do something different around the tables during fellowship: Declare the marvelous works of the Lord, offering discussion topics as a conversation starter. They started doing this last Wednesday.

He reported that there were two nomination forms in the collection box. Terms will vary (one, two or three years) and some current board members have expressed their desire to remain on the new council. Pastor will be meeting with Amanda Cyboron when they start gearing up for fall, and Doug would like to be included in that meeting.

Brian was thanked for his many years of service on this board. He offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned. This was the last meeting of the Board of Spiritual Oversight.

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Worship <i>(no youth group)</i> Tanzania team returns	2 9:00 Quilting	3 5:30 Girl Scouts <i>Orlin Olson (b)</i>	4
5 Pentecost 11 8:30 Adult study 10:00 Worship Mission/Ministry <i>Myron Falter (b)</i>	6	7 9:30 Stewardship 5:30 Childcare 6:30 Women/CTS	8 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth	9 9:00 Agape	10	11
12 Pentecost 12 8:30 Adult study 10:00 Worship Potluck/Tanzania group shares trip	13 5:30 Welcome/Hospitality 6:00 Ultreya	14	15 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth	16 2:00 Card club <i>Jim Meyer (b)</i>	17 5:30 wedding rehearsal 5:30 Girl Scouts <i>Judy Carstens (b)</i>	18 2:00 wedding of Andrea Kropf & Andy Petersen
19 Pentecost 13 8:30 Adult study 10:00 Worship Fellowship	20 6:30 Council meeting	21 <i>Kris Lee (b)</i> <i>Chuck Nicholson (b)</i> <i>Mary Weich (b)</i>	22 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 14 8:30 Adult study 10:00 Worship Fellowship	27 7:00 Ultreya <i>Merlin Lee (b)</i>	28 7:00 Worship committee	29 6:30 Worship 7:30 Youth <i>Roger Young (b)</i>	30	31 <i>Jerry & Linda Shaffer (w)</i>	

Altar guild: Mary Ann Knee, Mary Lund
 Communion bread: Mary Lund
 Membership care: Shirley Theil, Mary Lund