



The Newsletter

February 2023

**Glorify God in all we do,
Grow with Him daily &
Go with Him to share
His love.**

February at a Glance

- 12: 9:00 am Ordination and Installation of Elder and Deacon
 - 10:10 am Sunday School begins
- 13: 6:00pm Elder & Deacon Meetings
7:00pm Full Consistory will meet
- 14: Happy Valentine's Day!
- 20: 9:30 am Faith Bible Study
 - 3:00 pm Patience Bible Study

*Sundays:

- 9:00 am Praise and Worship Service
- 10:10 am Sunday School 4yrs - Adult
Coffee Fellowship Time

*Tuesdays:

- 8:30 am Quilting Chicks will meet

*Wednesday Evening Bible Classes and Youth Groups:

- 6:30 pm Bible Classes 1st-5th grades
- 6:30 pm MS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm HS Remnant Youth Group
- 7:30 pm Joyful Voices Choir

CONTACT INFORMATION:
712-754-2783
sibleyfrcoffice@gmail.com



View our Website at: sibleyfrc.org



Inspiration Hills
Camp and
Retreat Center

It's Camp Registration Time!! Check out the
full brochure located by the Mailboxes!

INSPIRATION HILLS 2023 SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1ST | 9 AM



SCAN HERE

WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA TO REGISTER

REGISTER ONLINE

INSPIRATIONHILLS.ORG

SAVE MONEY BY REGISTERING BEFORE APRIL 15



**CHECK OUT OUR
HIGH SCHOOL CAMPS
FOR 10TH - 12TH
GRADERS!
(PAGE 12)**





Inspiration Hills
Camp and
Retreat Center

1242 280th St. | Inwood, IA 51240
712.986.5193



Stewardship & Giving

Offering Summary through January 28:

- **General Fund: \$ 15,317**
Budget: \$340,984.97; 4% of budget
- **Benevolent Fund: \$1,154.38**
Budget: \$70,205.23; 1% of budget
- **Building Fund offerings to date: \$85**

Faith In Action for February

Random Acts of Kindness

Leave a thank you note Offer your seat
 Cycle courteously BE TOLERANT Let another go first
 Bake cookies for firefighters Give a compliment
 Help a student make friends Assist an adult
 Give a balloon away Lend a classmate a pencil
 Celebrate something every day Encourage a friend
 Respect others Walk a dog Do a favor
 Forgive mistakes Smile at someone new
 Give a flower Eat lunch with someone new
 Listen with your heart Visit a sick friend
 Clean a neighbor's walk Offer a hug

Special Offering for February



Let all that
you do be
done
in LOVE

1 Corinthians 16:14



Meeting Minutes

Consistory Meeting Highlights

January 9, 2023

- An effort will be made to get to shut-ins for Communion at least 4 times each year.
- MMSA to move forward with Administrative Team recommendations concerning 40 days of Discernment (See Pastor Troy's letter in this newsletter)

GROWING IN THE WORD



BLISS BROS
WOMEN OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT



Faith Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, February 20 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying chapter #9 "Shunammite Woman" in our book *Women of the Old Testament*. Scripture will be 2 Kings 4:8-37. Phyllis Vander Linden will be leader and Jane Buysman will serve as hostess. All are invited! Hope to see you there!

BLISS BROS
SEVEN LETTERS TO
SEVEN CHURCHES



Patience Bible Study, will meet on **Monday, February 20 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #4 "Defending Truth in a Culture of Lies," in our book *Seven Letters to Seven Churches*. Scripture for the lesson is Revelation 2:12-17. Barb will lead and Kathy will serve as hostess. Come for a time of fellowship and learning. Hope to see you there!

Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities on Sundays at 6:30pm:

1. **Message Discussion and Application** *Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar's home & *FRC Fellowship Hall
2. **Digging into God's Word: Revelation** *Kevin and Laurel Klaassen's home All ages, singles and couples are invited to attend.

Childcare can be arranged. Come, join a group and let's grow together!

Trivia Time!!

1. Who was the person called Candace?
2. When the seventh seal was opened in the book of Revelation, there was silence in heaven for how long?
3. In His ministry, Jesus mentioned a region of ten cities. What was that region called?
4. What was the name of Blind Bartimaeus's father?
5. In what book of the Bible does God tell a certain man not to cover his mustache?
6. When Aaron's rod blossomed, what type of nuts did it yield?
7. On the priestly garments a certain fruit was used as a design. What kind of fruit was it?
8. The Old Testament character Job lived in the land of _____?
9. Who had faces like lions and could run as fast as the roes (gazelles)?
10. What does the word Ebenezer mean?
11. Who fell asleep during a sermon and died as a result?
12. One man put his hand on the Ark to keep it from falling and died as a result of touching the Ark. Who was this man?

Praise and Worship Greeters

- 5: E: Dale and Marilyn DeBoer
C: Larry and Melissa DeBoer
W: Le Roy and Glenda DeBoer
- 12: E: Gary and Sandy De Vries
C: Stan and Abby De Zeeuw
W: Merlin and Karen Doorenbos
- 19: E: LaVon Dykstra
C: Ron and Nancy Dykstra
W: Scott and Marlys Dykstra
- 26: E: Luella Eggink
C: Jon and Amy Elser/family
W: Anita Ernst



9:00am Worship Nursery

- 5: Karen Honken and Kira Christensen
12: Karissa Hulstein and Pam Vande Hoef
19: Maureen and Amelia Heilman
26: Jennifer and Ella Bruxvoort

Fellowship Coffee Servers



- 5: Jim and Pauline Van Engen
12: Curt and Peg Van Kley
19: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef
26: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar

Children & Worship during the service



- 5: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 12: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 19: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:
- 26: Leader: Deb Kusters
Helper:

Willing Hands Group

Willing Hands Group #2

will be responsible for services during the month.

Co-chairpersons are:

- Luella Eggink
- Jan/Ed Harskamp

Library Volunteers



- 5: Jan Henrichs
12: Jamie Hulstein
19: Jan Juffer
26: Jeannette Juffer

February Celebrations

~~Birthday's~~

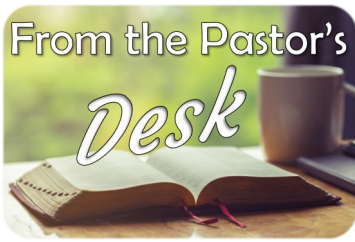
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Dale Honken
Aiden De Zeeuw | 12 Loren Hulstein | 21 Amy Van Marel
Jeannette Juffer
Riley Alexander |
| 2 Mark Dykstra
Hunter Rockman
Jim Ver Steeg | 13 Michael Hulstein
Nancy Soat
Emma Boeke | 23 Daphne Bremer |
| 3 Jenny Weg | 14 Elesson (Papito)
Joseph | 24 Ron Dykstra
Mariah Elser |
| 4 Dick Oldenkamp | 16 Dianne Kass
Harold Van Der Sloom
Jan Henrichs | 26 Justin Van Tilburg |
| 5 Karen Jurgens | 17 Jacob Runia
Kendra De Boer | 27 Dave McDyer
Zoey Alsip |
| 7 Ashilyn Hulstein | 20 Eric Schiphoff
Joanna Lucas | 28 (29) Connor Christensen |
| 10 Keegan Van Der Sloom
Terry Ackerman
Haiden Wielenga | | |
| 11 Ellie Klaassen | | |



~~Anniversaries~~

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 14 | Burt and Jan Henrichs - 47 years |
| 15 | Gary and Jessa Wolter - 59 years |

If you would like to be included in our Birthday and Anniversary Calendar and do not see your name, please contact the office (sibleyfrcoffee@gmail.com or 754-2783) and let us know your dates! We would love to recognize YOU on your special day! Thanks



40 weeks of Discernment

At the January 9th consistory meeting it was decided to embark upon a 40-week journey as a church, the goal being to make an informed decision regarding our affiliation as a Reformed Church in America congregation. We know very clearly who we are regarding the human sexuality issue but may not be fully aware of what it means that we are connected to the RCA denomination.

This journey has a 3-pronged approach. First, I will take some time to teach the congregation about the creeds and confessions to which the RCA subscribes. Together we will have the opportunity to look at the Apostles, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as well as the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, Canons of Dort, and the Belhar Confession. Second, a task force will take some time to research the pros and cons of remaining an RCA congregation. This will help us determine the value (or lack of) that we receive for being a part of the RCA. Third, another task force will research other networks and denominations where we may also fit so that if we do decide to leave, we will know where we are headed as a congregation. From now until our congregational meeting in the fall of 2023 we will spend time in a season of prayer, learning and discernment with the goal being an intelligent informed decision. There will be plenty of opportunities for us to learn together as a congregation. There are also openings on the two task forces that we are looking to fill. If you are interested in serving in some capacity in the research of RCA and other organizations, please let Ken Loerts or me know as soon as possible.

As your Transitional Pastor I believe that this is a good use of your time. It makes it clear that we are not rushing to a decision and that we have set a deadline to have a decision made. This decision may find you staying as an RCA congregation or leaving the RCA for another organization. I ask that you begin now by adding our journey to your prayer list. Pray for open minds for leaders and our congregation as we begin to learn about our own beliefs and the beliefs of others. Pray that God would bless the process as we move toward a final decision. Pray ultimately for God's will to be done in the life of our congregation, that whether we leave or stay that we would be a blessing to our community and that in our work and ministry God would be glorified.

Sportsmen's Devotional

Bible Study Verse

Job 37:5-8

God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; He does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone He has made may know His work, He stops all people from their labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. (NIV)



Thoughts

A couple of years ago in the middle of the elk and deer seasons in Wyoming, we were hit with a snowstorm that lasted four days. On the first day of the storm, we traveled in the dark to a grassy mountain meadow where the elk are known to feed. When it was legal shooting time, the visibility was very poor because of the fog and heavy snowfall. What few tracks we saw were from night-time travel.

By 8:30 that morning, most of the tracks were not distinguishable. We checked some of the dense bedding areas, but there was no sign of elk anywhere. By the second day, travel was impossible, visibility extremely poor, and the elk were not moving.

Action Point

Busy schedules will often interfere with our time with God and our family. God has a way of curtailing our plans and keeping us inside to have that quality time. When the weather is so severe that it forces us to stay home, consider it a blessing from God to slow us down. Use the time to have fun with your family, and spend time alone with God in prayer and meditation.

Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Before heading out to hunt in unfamiliar areas, study your maps, bring a compass and emergency pack; and use fluorescent tape to mark your trail

Trivia Time Answers!!!

- 1.** Queen of the Ethiopians (Acts 8:27) **2.** 1/2 an hour (Rev. 8:1) **3.** Decapolis (Matt 4:25) **4.** Timaeus (Mark 10:46) **5.** Ezekiel (Ezekiel 24:17) **6.** Almonds (Numb. 17:8) **7.** Pomegranates (Ex. 28:2,34) **8.** Uz (Job 1:1) **9.** The Gadites, part of David's mighty men (1 Chron. 12:8) **10.** The Lord help us (1 Sam. 7:12) **11.** Eutychus (Acts 20:9) **12.** Uzzah (2 Sam 6:6,7)

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD



Over the next few issues of our newsletter, we are going to go over the basic doctrines of those who call themselves reformed. Pastor Troy has rightly pointed out that we need to know what we believe before we can assess the theological accuracy of the RCA, or any possible future denomination. We will begin with the doctrine of God.

In 1961 J.I. Packer wrote a book called *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. I remember reading this book a decade later and the first chapter has stayed with me. He begins his instruction by saying our first task in evangelism is to define God. Not everyone who uses that word has the same definition in their mind.

For instance, it is easy to understand the necessity of definition when a Christian tries to evangelize a Hindu. What may surprise you is that not every Christian sees God the same way that he is described in scripture. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who said “that’s not the Jesus I believe in” or “my Jesus would never do that”? I have many times. In conversing with these individuals, hoping to lead them to faith, I have to go back to what the scriptures teach about who God is.

To give you an idea about the depth of confusion in America, here is data from a nationwide survey known as the *State of Theology*. The survey asks American adults about their core beliefs about God and religion. Take a look at the 2022 results about God. They are concerning, and unfortunately, the percentage of Evangelicals who can’t answer these questions correctly is nearly as high as the general population. Do you see problems with the Biblical teachings about who God is and what his characteristics are? *I have added true or false to each statement.*

- 71% agree “There is one true God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.” *True— 100% should agree*
- 67% agree “God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam.” *False— no one should agree*
- 66% of Americans agree “God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake.” *True— 100% should agree*
- 51% agree “God learns and adapts to different circumstances.” *False— no one should agree*
- 66% agree “Biblical accounts of the physical (bodily) resurrection of Jesus are completely accurate. This event occurred.” *True— 100% should agree*
- 55% agree “Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.” *False— no one should agree*
- 53% agree “Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.” *False— no one should agree*
- 59% agree “The Holy Spirit is a force but is not a personal being.” *False— no one should agree*
- 51% agree “The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual new birth or new life before a person has faith in Jesus Christ.” *True— 100% should agree*
- 22% agree “The Holy Spirit can tell me to do something which is forbidden in the Bible.” *False— no one should agree*

Download the 2022 State of Theology report at www.ligonier.org or www.lifeway.com.

THEOLOGY 101

BELGIC AND WESTMINSTER CONFESSIONS

Several years ago I purchased a book that I greatly value. It is a side-by-side comparison of the Dutch, English and Swiss confessions and catechisms. It is called *Reformed Confessions Harmonized* and it was edited by Joel Beeke and Sinclair Ferguson. It is published by Baker Books, and I recommend this book if you are interested in doing a deep dive into the Reformed statements of faith.

Our church believes in the classical form of the doctrine of the Trinity—God is one essence in three persons. The Father, Son, and Spirit have existed in this relationship through all eternity. Anyone or any religion that does not believe in the trinity is not Christian, therefore they do not believe in the God that is revealed in scripture.

This doctrine is carefully outlined in all of the Reformed confessions and catechisms, it is also the foundation for the Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Council of Nicaea (325) clearly defined the nature of the Trinity, and the Council of Chalcedon clarified the relationship between the divine and human natures of Jesus.

During your devotions, it might be a good idea to recite the Apostle’s creed. I also suggest that you take time to read Romans 1:18-25, particularly 22-25, to hear Paul’s thoughts about what happens to those who reject the truth of God and exchange it for a lie. Any time we worship some other version of God, we are guilty of worshiping the creation rather than the creator—which is the breaking of the first commandment.

Each month I will give you a crosswalk between the Belgic and Westminster Confessions so that you can learn from these historical confessions.

Topic	Belgic Confession—1561	Westminster Confession—1647
The Being and Attributes of God	Article 1 <i>God is One in Essence, Yet Distinguished in Three Persons</i>	II <i>Of God, and the Holy Trinity</i>
The Holy Trinity	Article 8 <i>God is one in Essence, Yet Distinguished in Three Persons</i> Article 9 <i>The Proof of the Foregoing Article of the Trinity of Persons in One God</i>	III <i>Of God; the Unity and the Trinity</i>
The Godhead of the Son	Article 10 <i>Jesus is True and Eternal God</i>	XI <i>Of Jesus Christ, Being True God and Man, and the Only Savior of the World</i>
The Godhead of the Holy Spirit	Article 11 <i>The Holy Ghost is True and Eternal God</i>	



PRAY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

1. Jane Buysman

2. Nathan and Angela Buysman

3. Nick and Sara Buysman

4. Pray for our College Students

5. Pray for our Church

6. Dave and JoAnn Calsbeek

7. Margaret Calsbeek

8. Dale and Amy Carda

9. Levi and Kira Christensen; Connor, Riley

10. Karla Crichton; Regan, Hadley

11. Pray for our College Students

12. Pray for our Church

13. Jennifer Cuadros

14. Parker and Alexa Dagel

15. Tom and Ruth Dagel
16. Dale and Marilynn DeBoer

17. Kalie DeBoer

18. Pray for our College Students

19. Pray for our Church

20. Jaden DeBoer

21. Larry and Melissa DeBoer; Kendra

22. Le Roy and Glenda DeBoer

23. Mark and Angie DeBoer

24. Gary and Sandy De Vries

25. Pray for our College Students

26. Pray for our Church

27. Stan and Abby De Zeeuw;
Keegan, Aiden, Joselyn, Addison

28. Glenn Doorenbos

College Students:

Mackenzie Beyer	Carter Brouwer	Dalten Bremer	Leah Ackerman
Logan Bruxvoort	Andrea Leusink	Ashilyn Hulstein	Grant Brouwer
Kaden Maxwell	Austin Wassman	Natalie Klaassen	Tanner Dykstra
Teddy Van Gelder			Jaeger Johnson
			Alex Mc Dougall
			Ryan Van Marel

BE A
Prayer
WARRIOR

Grace Covenant Ministries

PRAYER JOURNAL



The first Sunday in February is FOUR CHAPLAINS' SUNDAY. If someone asked you, could you tell the story?? Eighty years ago four heroic chaplains; Methodist, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Dutch Reformed made the supreme sacrifice. The William B. Hoffman American Legion and Auxiliary Post in Ashton invites you to read the story below.

THE STORY OF THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

On the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, USAT Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward a U.S. base in Greenland. Coast Guard cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche escorted the convoy.

Hans Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier, Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the report. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea-lanes, and several ships had already been sunk.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard U-223 spotted Dorchester. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire a fan of three torpedoes. The one that hit was decisive and deadly, striking the starboard side, amidships, far below the water line. Alerted that Dorchester was sinking rapidly, Danielsen gave the order to abandon ship. In fewer than 20 minutes, Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, overcrowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get into them.

In the midst of the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness: Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister. Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. They tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded, and guide the disoriented toward safety.

"Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live," said Wyatt Fox, son of Reverend Fox. One witness, Pvt. William Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smeared water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar recalled. "I could

also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

A sailor, Petty Officer John Mahoney, tried to re-enter his cabin but was stopped by Rabbi Goode. Concerned about the cold Arctic air, Mahoney explained that he’d forgotten his gloves “Never mind,” Goode responded. “I have two pairs.” The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. Later, Mahoney realized that Goode hadn’t been carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the chaplain had decided not to leave Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more life jackets to hand out, the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men. Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew, and Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic. Nor did Rev. Fox and Rev. Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to those next in line.

“It was the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains’ selfless act. As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains, braced against the slanting deck, arm in arm. They were heard praying and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard Dorchester, 672 died. When the news reached the United States, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

That night, Rev. Fox, Rabbi Goode, Rev. Poling and Father Washington passed life’s ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

In 1944, the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously to the chaplains’ next of kin, and in 1961, President Eisenhower awarded a special Medal for Heroism, a one-time award authorized by Congress and intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.



Many new books have been added to our church library. Take a few moments to stop by and check one out.





Education Schedule:

Please remember the following Weather Cancellations Procedure: If there is NO school, or school is released early due to inclement weather, there will be NO WEDNESDAY Night activities.

Sunday School 3 yr - Adult:

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesday Bible Classes (1st-5th grades) & MS and HS Remnant Youth Groups:

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22

College Addresses

Hudson Feldkamp

825 Legacy Lane
Unit 61
Brookings, SD 57006

Ryan Van Marel

804 Medary Ave. South
Brookings, SD 57006

Alex Mc Dougall

2040 Hawthorn Ct. Drive
#7122
Ames, IA 50010-9169

Jagger Johnson

4709 Steinbeck Street
Apt 11
Ames, IA 50014

Tanner Dykstra

3029 N. 47th Street
Lincoln, NE 68504

Grant Brouwer

DU 2335
700 7th Street NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Leah Ackerman

5008 W. Equestrian Pl.
Apt 217
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Ashilyn Hulstein

718 9th Ave
Brookings, SD 56007

Dalton Bremer

Rm# 612 A-2
1110 North Dubuque St.
Iowa City, IA 52245

Tyler Feldkamp**Austin Wassman**

1434 Tyler Ave
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

Andrea Leusink

BVU Box 2461
610 W. Fourth Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Carter Brouwer

SDSU
Room 421
Binnewies Hall
Box 2805
Brookings, SD 57007

Ted Van Gelder

SDSU
Room #324-A1
Young Hall
Box 2807
Brookings, SD 57007

Kaden Maxwell

104 S. Harmon Drive
Mitchell, SD 57301

Logan Bruxvoort

230 10th Ave.
Worthington, MN 56187

MacKenzie Beyer

610 W. 4th Street
Storm Lake, IA 50588

If your student will have a different address for the 2022-2023 school year please let the office know.

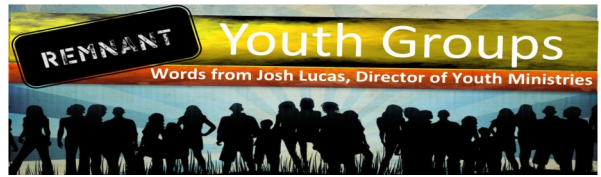
Hello First Reformed Church,

Diane Langstraat did a lesson with the middle school students a couple of years ago and it was something that has always stuck with me. She did a lesson on priorities. The focus behind the lesson was where did you spend your time and are you spending it wisely? One of the coolest moments, I thought, was when we had the students take out their phones and most smart phones have this feature that show you how much screen time you've had. It even breaks it down by the apps that you are using on your phone and how much time you are spending on that individual app. You can do it by the day or by the week. That is when she said it, "There is one thing that we all have what is it?" No one could give the answer, even I couldn't give the answer. I thought, "Names, birthdays, parents, etc." Which is correct but we all have the same amount of time. Every day, every week, every month, and every year. We all have 24 hours a day, 168 hours a week, about 5,040 hours a month, and 60,480 hours a year. All of us share that with each other. All of us have the same amount of time each day. So what are we doing with it?

That concept of time is so interesting, especially when dealing with someone who has a different perspective than you. For example, the concept of time is probably going to be different between someone who is 13 and another who is 85. Jesus spoke about being wise with our time. Being a semi-new father, I get told a lot, "Enjoy that time because it sure goes fast." At the time I brushed it off and didn't think anything of it, until I realized that Joanna is now about to turn 4 in February! Not only should we enjoy the precious limited time we have with our children, we also need to be wise with it as well. Think about this for a second. Are your kids going to be living with you forever? Are you going to be their caretaker forever? Probably not! We need to not only raise our kids and keep them alive, but we need to prepare them. We need to prepare them for what they are going to be facing when they enter the "real world" whether that be college or the work force. You're raising up the next generation of people that will take over this world when we die. Are we raising our kids in the Lord? Are we raising them to stand up for their faith in times of attack? Are we raising our kids to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ?

This is why the other youth directors and I have come together to try and bridge that gap and help parents to disciple your children at home. Discipleship starts within the home brothers and sisters. This fall we are going to be hosting an event with Amy Davison. She will be giving parents helpful tips on to how to disciple their children and why discipleship is so important. It also doesn't matter how old your children are. They could be even in college and you can still disciple them. I emailed out a list of possible speaking topics for Amy and we want to hear from you, the parents, as to what topics you would like to hear from Amy. If you didn't receive that list, please contact me and I will get it to you. It is also never too late to start discipling your kids. If there was a point of no return than the thief on the cross would be burning in Hell right now, which of course he is not, so there is still time. Do not think that you have failed and time has run out to fix it, it has not! Pray about it and ask Jesus to help you. I am also here for all of you! I want to help you, tell me how I can help you. Thank you so much for reading my article and if you ever need a hug this big ole teddy bear has got one for you!

Blessings,
Josh Lucas



Dad Jokes With Josh:

People tell me I'm addicted to brake fluid But I can stop anytime I want!



Dear Friends and Supporters,

We continue to be blessed with partners who help us to make a difference in the lives of our community. One of the recipients of the blessings this year was Betty. Betty is taking care of two sons, one with disabilities and another undergoing cancer treatments. Betty's house needed major repairs. Volunteers, with the help of our staff and some donations from other partners, reworked Betty's kitchen with new flooring and new cabinets. The group also stepped up to help with other needs that were apparent. Betty and her sons were overwhelmed by the compassion that was shown to them. Betty stated, "We have never experienced such kindness before."



Another highlight in 2022 was having our campers who attended dance camp interact with senior citizens from area nursing homes. The campers did a presentation of what they learned at the camp. Then they did crafts and had a meal together. The interaction was a highlight of the summer for both the campers and the senior saints.



Our challenges of 2022

Inflation affected our organization in a variety of ways. The prices paid for food and supplies created budget issues. We have some improvement projects on campus that we had to put on hold because of big price increases. Inflation creates burdens for the families we serve and also for our supporters.



Central College students leading youth outreach activities and working on a building improvement project on campus.