

Learning - Living - Sharing **Christ**

God is at Work

"It's exciting to watch God at work here at Bridge Community Church. The spirits are soaring here!"

Our recent worship services have seen fantastic turnouts with bustling energy and joyful songs that fill our sanctuary.

It is wonderful to witness many children running around. Some of our wise and faithful people are saying, "I don't recognize people like I used to." I would say that this is a clear sign of growth and life within our church family.

The presence of young people adds a special vibrancy to our community.

This reminds us of the importance of nurturing the next generation in faith. Their laughter, curiosity, and enthusiasm bring an extra dose of warmth to our gatherings. It creates a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all.

Thank you, parents, for bringing your children to Bridge Community Church to learn, live and share Jesus.

Thank you, nursery workers, children's church volunteers and Sunday school teachers!

We are grateful for the positive momentum and increased participation we are experiencing. It is a testament to the spirit of unity and fellowship that thrives within our church walls.

Let us continue to ride the wave and embrace this journey together. We are guided by faith and filled with gratitude for the blessings that God showers upon us.

In the midst of these thriving moments, let us remember the words of Matthew 19:14, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder

them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

We are not keeping up with the blessing of our kid's growth at this time. We need more helpers in children's church, a couple teachers for the elementary Sunday school class and a Jr. High teacher.

What a wonderful problem to have!

Let's all celebrate the wonderful things unfolding at Bridge Community Church by getting involved with what God is doing here!

All for Jesus,

Pastor Mark

May Pastors Challenge

Keeping in mind our mission statement, **LEARN, LIVE & SHARE Christ**, our Pastors Challenge for the month of May: Focus on one way you will show life to those around you for Christ this month! (Encourage, empathize, share...etc.) Let's be **Vibrantly** alive for Jesus!

This fulfills **Living**.



Endure for the Elect

“⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and descended from David, according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer to the point of being bound like a criminal. But the word of God is not bound. ¹⁰ This is why I endure all things for the elect: so that they also may obtain salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.” (2 Timothy 2:8-10 CSB). I chose the Scripture that I did, 2 Timothy 2:8-10, because I wanted to emphasize not only our need to remember the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But I also wanted to point out the fact that we should be like Paul in this scenario and strive to endure for the elect.

With that said, in this passage we can see how Paul is writing to Timothy. And we can see how Paul seeks to emphasize the need for endurance and perseverance when it comes to presenting the gospel to this broken world. In fact, we not only see Paul briefly highlight the gospel in verse eight, but we also see how Paul is being treated because of his devotion to the good news of Jesus Christ. However, Paul does not feel deterred even through this persecution. In fact, he uses his situation to point out the truth of the matter. Which is, even though he may be bound by chains, God’s word cannot be bound. For God’s message will be expressed and it will be known no matter the opposition. And so, a nugget of hope that we can hold onto would be this. God’s word, when

spoken, cannot be stopped and will do what God intends for it to do.

Paul then emphasizes the motivation behind his endurance when it comes to presenting Jesus and being chained for Christ. Paul highlights the fact that he endures for the elect so that they may obtain the sweet salvation that comes in being a follower of Jesus and so that they may be glorified when the fight of life is finished. The question for us is then, do we have that same purpose in mind when it comes to telling others about Jesus? When we look at somebody do we think, that person could be in the family of God? Hence, like Paul, no matter the opposition, our mission should be to share Christ with others so that they too may obtain salvation with eternal glory. Thank you and God bless.

~ In Christ’s love,
Pastor Caleb



Greetings in the Name of the Lord,

When we think of May, what often comes to mind is flowers. After all, “April showers bring May flowers,” right? Plus, May is typically when the growing season in our area is in full swing. The drab colors of a dormant landscape have given way to tangible signs of new growth; the prospects of another harvest.

May has also come to be associated with something else: prayer. That’s due to the occurrence of our National Day of Prayer, which always takes place each year on the first Thursday of May. The theme this year is, **LIFT UP THE WORD – LIGHT UP THE WORLD**. It’s based on a portion of one of King David’s songs of praise to the Lord. *For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.* 2 Samuel 22:29-31

It would be wise for us to follow King David’s example. David knew that anything he accomplished, any success he had, came only with God’s help. Obviously, David wasn’t perfect. He made mistakes and suffered the negative consequences of his poor, even sometimes terrible, decisions. However, David knew God who is perfect. He trusted God and followed his word. Even in those times when he faltered, David turned to God in repentance. For, he knew that God’s way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true.

As I think of God’s word being true, and God being our lamp that lightens our darkness, I’m instantly reminded of a verse from the longest psalm in the Bible. You may even very well know what it is. *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* Psalm 119:105.

It’s true that the Lord speaks to us in various ways. Not only through his written word, but also through his Spirit into our mind, through events in our life, even at times through other people. So, we can’t know for certain what form of word the psalmist predominately had in mind when he penned that truth. Perhaps all of the above. However, I suspect most of us think of God’s written word when we hear that verse. I suppose that’s understandable. I mean, let’s be honest. When God speaks to us in other ways, we may not always be absolutely sure it’s a word from the Lord.

By contrast, his Scriptures are very clear. In fact, I’ll go out on a limb here and say, “Most often the verses we claim to not understand are the ones we don’t agree with, and thus don’t want to obey.” After all, we’re all well aware of how some “unclear” scriptures have been reinterpreted in recent years to make them conform to ungodly cultural trends.

Aside from all that, this brings to mind an instruction from God’s word. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.* James 1:22-25.

That instruction aligns with what the prophet Samuel told King Saul after the king had failed to carry out God’s command to completely destroy the Amalekites, along with everything that belonged to them. King Saul tried to justify his disobedience by claiming he had spared the best sheep and cattle in order to offer them as a sacrifice to the Lord. *But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.* 1 Samuel 15:22.

In response to King Saul disobeying God’s word of instruction, the kingdom of Israel was given to David. I think the point of all this is quite clear. If we follow God’s word he will help us to overcome the challenges we face in this troubled world. By contrast, there are dire consequences when we fail to live in obedience to it. That’s why James tells us to not merely listen to the word, but then to, do what it says! So, for not only your sake, but also for the sake of your family, friends, church and nation, I sincerely hope you’re daily spending time with the Lord, learning and listening to his word. Even more importantly, I hope you’re living in obedience to it.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Clayton



Marina lives in Alexandria, Egypt. When she was 11 years old, she opened an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and found a treasure trove of gifts, including "Bundle", a stuffed cat in purple overalls that she still cherishes today. She heard the Gospel presented the same day that she received the shoebox, and she came to accept Christ though the discipleship lessons. "When I accepted Christ," she said, "It changed my whole life."

Today, Marina uses Operation Christmas Child discipleship materials to share the Gospel with a new generation of children who are receiving shoebox gifts. Ships from Alexandria carried Apostle Paul on his last missionary journey, and now the Lord is using a gift shipped to Alexandria to build up his Kingdom in that corner of the world.

This is just one of many stories that tell how an OCC shoebox changed a child's life and brought them to accept Christ as their Savior. Just think one shoebox, that you packed, can turn around a child's life. Keep in mind, that you can start putting a shoebox together now. If you have any questions about how to put a shoebox together, don't be afraid to talk with me, I will be happy to help you.

May items: (girl toys) dolls and doll accessories, puzzles, coloring or sticker books, jump ropes, watercolor sets, tops, marbles, stick-on-nail sets, jewelry, little purses, and hair items. As always anyone who would like to be involved with OCC, don't be afraid to contact me at 507-402-5067.

Rose Olson

Coordinator of OCC Shoeboxes

Spotlight

Pastor Caleb

Ministry report:

How is Wednesday Night Youth Group Going?

-My Youth Groups for Jr. High and Senior High have both been growing this spring. It has been encouraging to see fruit by youth bringing their friends to Youth Group and some coming on their own by my invitation. I've seen hunger for the Word and that has been wonderful to see!

How is Sunday Hangout Going?

-Sunday Hangout has been going strong, as well, we have been studying the book of John and I have been challenging the youth to get into their Bibles as much as possible.

I am looking for someone to lead the 6th-8th graders so that the age gap is not as large for Sunday mornings.

Other Ministry Areas of Focus?

I have been continuing to spend time at The Rock, when I can, connecting with kids and speaking truth into their lives. I've also been volunteering at the High School lunches, when I can, to connect with my youth there and make new connections as well.

I have been connecting with youth one-on-one, finding out where their walk with Jesus is and building relationships. I have attended some of their sporting events to cheer them on too!

Summer Schedule?

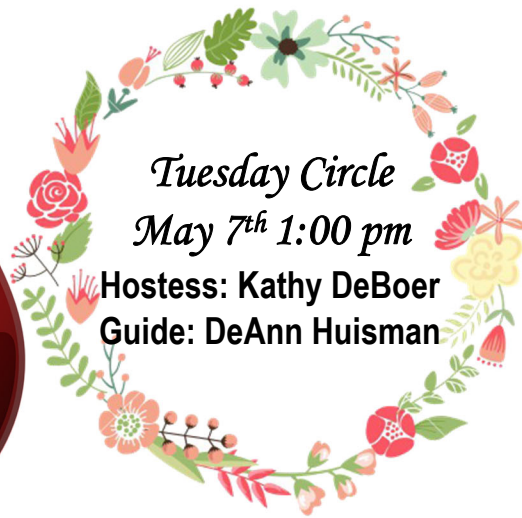
Throughout the summer I have plenty of events planned for the youth to stay connected! **The Summer Kick-Off** will be on **June 5th** from **5:30-7:00 pm** for **9th-12th graders** and **June 12th** from **6:00-7:00 pm** for **6th-8th graders!**

Thank you for your prayers, they are greatly appreciated! God is good!

~Pastor Caleb

Events Here & There

Blood Drive
will be here on
the first
Thursday of
each month.
12:00-6:00 p.m.



Blessing of the Bikes

Saturday, May 18th 9:00 – 10:30 am

Bring your motorcycle and enjoy
breakfast and fellowship!



Annual Business Meeting!

2023/2024 Annual Ministry Report
Sunday, May 19th, 2024

Pot blessing meal after the Worship
Service and meeting following.

**Please have all ministry reports in to
Isabel by May 5th. Thank you!**

Craft Night

Friday, May 10th
6 p.m. – 10 p.m.



SNACKS FOR THE ROCK

May 20th-24th. If the Lord places it on
your heart to donate, it will be greatly
appreciated!



L.A.F.F.

Life After Fifty-Five
May 16th at 4:30 p.m.

Program: Bonita Moeller Sharing her past 3 months
Ministry in Jamaica.

Everyone is welcome!

All ages may come! Please use the sign-up sheet on the
back counter, so we know how to prepare, if you want
to come! Bring a dish to pass and bring a friend!

Starting May 26th Summer Schedule:

9:45 a.m. | Prayer

10:00 a.m. | Fellowship

10:30 a.m. | Worship Service



Youth Group

May 2024

5:30-6:30 | 6th – 8th graders

7:00-8:00 p.m. | 9th – 12th graders



May 22nd is the last night of regular Youth Group
until September 11th.

Youth Group (6th-8th) *Summer* Schedule:

June 12th, 19th, & 26th. July 10th, 24th, & 31st.

August 14th & 28th.

Youth Group (9th-12th) *Summer* Schedule:

June 5th, 19th, & 26th. July 10th, 24th, & 31st.

August 14th & 28th.

*See website for details on what will be happening on these
dates or ask Pastor Caleb for a detailed schedule!

Graduation Recognition

Celebrating our Seniors! Class of 2024

Sunday, May 19th 10:30 a.m.

- **Jose Fernandez**
-Graduation Party-
Open House Sunday, June 2nd here at BCC!
- **Isaiah McGaffey**
- **Joshua Jordahl**
- **Karlie Braun (College Master's Graduate)**





Birthdays

- 1 - Seth Patton
- 2 - Noah Nelson
- 2 - Natalia Nelson
- 2 - Kaegan Christensen
- 2 - Jane Steltzner
- 4 - Brady Evenson
- 5 - Jason Patton
- 5 - Joseph Peterson
- 7 - Luverne Jenson
- 10 - Wayne Diercks
- 11 - Dustin Petersen
- 12 - John Jacobson
- 14 - Jan VanderVoort
- 18 - Roger Draayer
- 21 - Larry Lee
- 22 - Vicki Williams
- 23 - Alexander Baize
- 23 - Faith Peterson
- 24 - Reta Draayer
- 24 - Roger Levine
- 28 - Bill House
- 30 - Bruce Himmerich
- 31 - Cynthia VanRiper

Anniversaries

- 3 - Pastor Mark & Kelly Miller
- 6 - Kendall & Beth Christensen
- 8 - Les & Keeley Anderson
- 18 - Chad & Nikki Beer
- 23 - Dave & Liz Thunstedt
- 26 - Mike & Cheryl Carlson
- 30 - Brad & Kris Burnett
- 31 - Theo & Leah Jacobsen

MEMORIAL DAY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p align="center"><u>Sunday Gatherings</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Morning Prayer</u> • 8:30 a.m.</p> <p align="center"><u>Sunday School & Small Groups</u> • 9 a.m.</p> <p align="center"><u>Fellowship</u> • 10 a.m.</p> <p align="center"><u>Worship Service</u> • 10:30 a.m.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>Youth Group 6th-8th 5:30-6:30</p> <p>Youth Group 9th-12th 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p align="center">Blood Drive Noon – 6:00 pm</p>	3	4
<p>5</p> <p align="center">Sharing the Lord's Supper</p>	<p>6</p> <p align="center">Fellowship Team Meeting 5:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p align="center">Bible Study 9:30 am</p> <p align="center">Tuesday Circle 1:00 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Youth Group 6th-8th 5:30-6:30</p> <p>Youth Group 9th-12th 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p align="center">Craft Night 6:00 – 10:00 pm</p>	11
<p>12</p> <p align="center">Happy Mother's Day!</p>	<p>13</p> <p align="center">Deacon Meeting 5:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p align="center">Bible Study 9:30 am</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Group 6th-8th 5:30-6:30</p> <p>Youth Group 9th-12th 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p align="center">LAFF 4:30 pm</p>	17	<p>18</p> <p align="center">Blessing of the Bikes 9:00 – 10:30 am</p>
<p>19</p> <p align="center">Ann. Bus. Mtg. & Pot Blessing Following the Worship Service (Last day of regular Schedule)</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p align="center">Bible Study 9:30 am</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Youth Group 6th-8th 5:30-6:30</p> <p>Youth Group 9th-12th 7:00 – 8:00 pm</p>	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p align="center">First Day of Summer Schedule: Prayer 9:45 am No Sunday School/Small Groups</p>	<p>27</p> <p align="center">Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p align="center">Bible Study 9:30 am</p>	29	30	31	