

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



How's Our Prayer Life?

by Pastor Nate Crandall

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” (Isaiah 56:6-7)

Jesus quoted from this passage when he drove the money changers out of the temple. His “house” had become a “den of robbers” instead of a place of prayer. Today we don’t go to the Jewish temple to worship and pray, but let us not just assume that church buildings are our houses of prayer. Paul makes it clear that the temple, that is, God’s house, is not the same thing under the new covenant. **“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”** (1 Corinthians 3:16) So then, when God’s people gather, there is the house of prayer. The “house” is the people of God, wherever two or more come together in Jesus’ name.

Have you trusted Christ alone for salvation from your sins and the promise of new life in him? Then you belong to the house of God. You are a piece of his house.

When you gather together with the family of God, whether that’s in the church building or other places, whether that’s a large group gathering or a small group, do you join together in prayer? If that’s not a habit, then let me ask the question. Why not? What keeps God’s family from praying together?

As you think about the answer to that question, let me remind you that the house of prayer is for all people. No one who has been received into the family of God through faith in Christ is excluded. Our identity is that we are a praying people. If something is keeping us from living out our identity, then we need to find out what it is and do something to change it. God’s Spirit will lead us in this work because he’s the one who has called us to pray.

So God’s people, let me ask this question again from the perspective that together we are God’s house.

How’s Our Prayer Life?



May 2023

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Ministry Spotlight on Our Deacons

Deacons Then and Now *by Pastor Liz Green*

In Acts, the first deacons were selected because there was a need in the growing church to wait on tables and serve food. The disciples were tasked with spreading the gospel and are recorded as saying ***“It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables”*** (Acts 6:2) The disciples’ call was to preach and spread the Gospel, and their desire to devote themselves fully to that duty. So the church was tasked with selecting deacons to serve tables who were of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom (Acts 6:3). And so, the first seven deacons were selected.

Through the years, deacons have filled many roles in different churches. Sometimes they have been the governing board. Sometimes they have been the spiritual leaders of a church. In our church, we go back to the original model de-

scribed in Acts, and have deacons who are faith-filled models of serving others, while the Trustees are the governing board, and the Elders have spiritual oversight.

Recently, our deacons answered a call to assist an older community member with moving out of a beloved home and into an apartment. Without the action of the deacons, this person had no resources to move. Another deacon follows and monitors an older person, helping them get to

church. The deacon’s fund assists our church family and community with unexpected financial crises, and helps that person meet a critical need. Deacons also help with transportation for our older members and shut-ins, meal trains, as well as serving communion, and other service tasks.

We are so grateful to God for calling our deacons and for their acts of service. We look forward to the next tasks God has in mind for them.



Deacon Ministry



*We pray that on this mother's day
You'll have some time for "you"
To be able to do those special things
You've always wanted to
We pray you'll feel the closeness
Of the Lord God above
And know how much you're thought of
And how much you are loved.*

Public Domain Pictures

Prayer Focus – Deacons and the Ministry of Serving Others

PRAISE – We praise you LORD, for you are making all things new! Your kingdom, your mercy, your justice, your goodness – will prevail. We praise you that, as we serve you, our labors are never in vain!

CONFESSION – LORD, even your deacons, who are called to serve, do not always want to – do not always serve with willing hearts. Forgive us, cleanse us, and lead us to serve with joy and humility.

MEDITATION – 1 Peter 4:10 - *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.* Matthew 20:26-28 - *But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.* Hebrews 10:24 - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*

PETITION – LORD, help each of us hear your call to serve. Give us grace to accept help when we need to be served. Let it all be joy as we walk with you and with each other.

INTERCESSION – We lift up our deacons – Janet Butler, Brandon Crandall, Jon Cruzan, Sue Cruzan, Ernie Fisher, Merry Fitz-Randolph, Dale Green, Mickey Johnson, Brittany Kersten, Marcy Kersten, Melissa Lade, Doug Lubke, Doneta Osborn, Renee Sanford – Keep them strong spiritually, physical, mentally and emotionally. Draw them closer to you. Keep them faithful in your word and in your service. May those they touch see the light of the gospel through their actions and testimonies. Let them grow more and more like Jesus, seeking to serve as He served. May they bless our church, our community, and even to the ends of the earth.

THANKSGIVING – Thank you for blessing us with deacons who serve so faithfully in meeting the needs of our church family.

REST – We trust you to provide leadership and servants for the future – as you are and always have provided for all our needs.

Food Pantry Update

For Easter the pantry gave out hams and turkeys to the families that requested them.

Our numbers are continuing to go up.....over 70 families in March and over 200 individuals. We have finally finished sorting and shelving Christmas donations. We have dated and been using the 500 to 600 boxes of cereal we received from the middle school's domino contest.



Pantry's ongoing needs: deodorant (men's and women's), laundry pods, dishwashing soap, crackers and hamburger helper. For the school kid' s bags: granola bars, fruit cups, and spaghettiOs.

Dylan Dodd: Short Term Missions Update

Here is a sampling from Dylan's newsletter last month.

Ministry wise, we're still working in the same place...Kairos (in South Africa), where we hand out food and clothes to people in need, and also the school aftercare at the end of the day helping kids with their homework and such. Since the last time we talked I had a really cool experience where we handed out food to people in the community! They have one big day every month where they feeds TONS and TONS of people.

I also was given a moment from God to share the gospel with a

local who was hungry for salvation! He was basically asking, "how can I be saved?" How awesome is that!!! So that's a praise that I wanted to share. Evangelism opportunities are everywhere here.

...My whole team and I are moving to our next community! It's a place called Darling, South Africa. I thought that I'd be going to Lesotho next which is another country but boy was I bamboozled! We are going to Darling which is still in the same country of South Africa. It's a small town that is a 20 hour drive away from where I currently am (Centurion, S.A.) and is known for its farming.

Dylan's Prayer List:

- Effectiveness in ministry with serving, loving and most importantly, opportunities to share the gospel!!!
- Blessings on my relationships with my team.
- Personal growth with the Lord and maturity. Growing in the fruits of the spirit and steadfastness in the word and prayer.

Dylan is expected to be home at the end of June. Make sure to ask him about how God moved in and through him in his trip!





On November 5 last year, our church and the community packed 301 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our boxes went to five

countries on three continents:

South America:

Suriname and Guyana

North America: Jamaica

Africa: Zambia, Lesotho

Please pray for those children in Lesotho who received our boxes.

Lesotho:

Landlocked within the nation of South Africa, Lesotho is mountainous with little land suitable for growing crops. Much of the population travels out of the country to work due to job scarcity. Distribution of shoeboxes started there in 1999, and The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program started in 2011.

Spiritual Conversations

Do you have any lady friends who are seeking God? They want to know if he is real? They want to know why God would allow pain and suffering? They are going through a difficult time and need hope? Since 2017, our church has facilitated Q Place discussion groups (Q stands for Questions) for those looking for a safe, nonjudgmental place to talk about life, God and the Bible. Melissa Lade, Shanny (Snyder) Ayres, and Linda Lyke have facilitated these groups. We are happy to announce that we have one more facilitator currently going through training, Jenn Preiss.

Our next Spiritual Conversations group starts June 12th. If you have lady friends, family, neighbors who want to explore faith, please give their contact information to one of us facilitators.



Bridal Shower for Shanny

Join us for a bridal shower for Shanny (Snyder) Ayres on Saturday, June 3rd, directly after church. RSVP to Linda Lyke (lykelinda@gmail.com) or Melissa Lade (melissadlane@hotmail.com).

Lunch will be served.

They are registered at Amazon.com under either Shanny Ayres or Micah Ayres: <https://www.amazon.com/wedding/shanny-ayres-micah-ayres--august-2023/registry/2Z6TFOGWUDQA>

Summer Missions Scholarships

Summer missions scholarships are available to anyone participating in a short-term missions trip, including Koinonia. Please contact the Church Administrator for more information or for a scholarship form.



Thank you to Pam Adams for preparing the meals and to everyone who provided food and help at the GIFTS Men's Shelter in April. You are appreciated!

May Bulletin Board



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6 Annmarie Bennett
- 7 Josh Harris
- 13 Dale Green
- 15 Angie Mullen
- 20 *Rinald & Teresa Kersten*
- 20 *Tom & Tara Rotzoll*
- 22 Genna Mullen
- 24 Becky Leitel
- 25 Eric Camenga
- 26 Robin Bliese
- 28 Matt Uglum
- 29 Jill Groelle
- 29 Deb Perrino
- 29 Shanny Ayers
- 29 Becky Snyder



Camp Wakonda 2023

- Camp Discover June 26-30
- Camp Collision July 9-16
- Intermediate Camp July 16-21

Consider spending a week at beautiful Camp Wakonda!

Camp registration forms & counselor applications are available at www.theconnecting.church/wakonda

Men's Chorus

will rehearse at 8:00 a.m. on Sabbath, May 20th and sing during worship that day at 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, May 9th
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's
Come relax with some church friends!

May Children's Church

May 13

Unit 16: Session 2 -
Daniel was Faithful (Daniel 1)

May 27

Unit 16: Session 3 -
Daniel Served God (Daniel 5)



Mid-Year Meeting
Sunday, June 25, 9:00 a.m.

Koinonia Singers Concert
at Milton SDB Church
Sunday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.

May

3rd
6:30
p.m.

Awards Night –
You are invited to celebrate the hard work of the children who are faithfully studying God's Word and committing it to memory!



May	
1 (Mon.)	Roller Skating with Koinonia
3	Collision
10	Collision
17	Collision – Pizza Party
24	Collision – Year-end Celebration



Focus on Funds

as of March 31, 2023

General Fund Balance	\$ -3,140.15
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$45,411.80
March Undesignated Inc.	\$16,216.50
March Total Income	\$20,031.35
March Expenses	\$23,259.48
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 2,055.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 9,724.38

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																
	<p>1</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>  <p>May Day</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana Awards Night 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>																
<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>																
<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>  <p>Lubke Piano Recital</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>																
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Trustee Meeting 9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>																
<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>29</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <table> <tr> <td>May 5</td> <td>8:01 p.m.</td> <td>May 6</td> <td>8:03 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 12</td> <td>8:09 p.m.</td> <td>May 13</td> <td>8:10 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 19</td> <td>8:16 p.m.</td> <td>May 20</td> <td>8:17 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 26</td> <td>8:23 p.m.</td> <td>May 27</td> <td>8:24 p.m.</td> </tr> </table> </div>			May 5	8:01 p.m.	May 6	8:03 p.m.	May 12	8:09 p.m.	May 13	8:10 p.m.	May 19	8:16 p.m.	May 20	8:17 p.m.	May 26	8:23 p.m.	May 27	8:24 p.m.
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May
2023

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Pastor Liz Green
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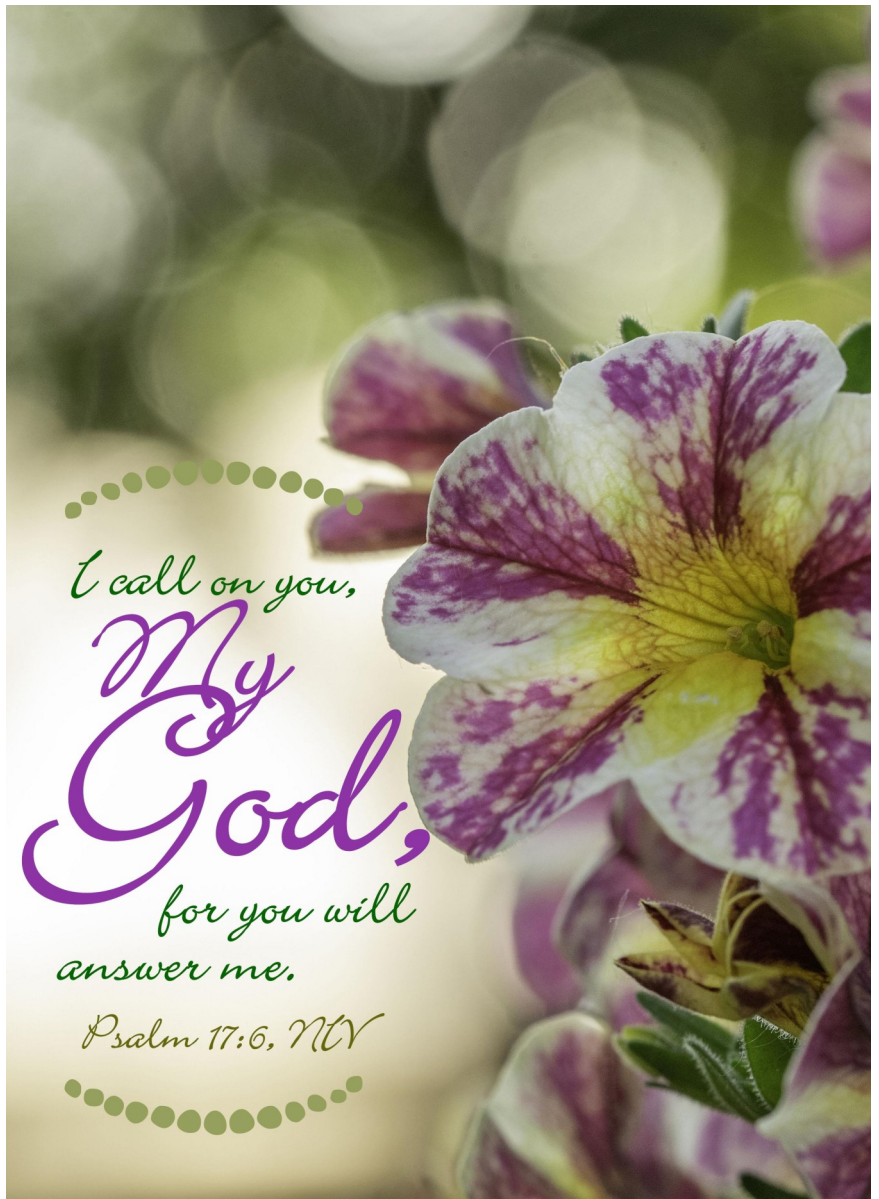
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Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel. Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link. We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.