



M a r c h 2 0 2 3

Learning to Trust God

In Mark 10:14-15 Jesus said to his disciples, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child shall not enter it.”

One of the hallmarks of little children is an instinctive trust in their parents to love and protect them as well as having the capacity to meet their needs. Most children believe their parents want to do good for them, and this belief fills their little worlds with endless possibilities.

So, what is the opposite of this childlike Spirit of Trust that God admonishes us to have? It is cynicism which happens to be the dominant spirit of our age. People’s fears, anxieties, frustrations, disappointments, and overall weariness tend to determine people’s courses in life. As one man said, “I think we have built up scar tissue from our frustrations, and we don’t want to expose ourselves anymore. Fear constrains us.”

Do you know what cynicism questions on our behalf? The Goodness of God, which in turn opens the door to low-level doubts, which in turn opens doors for even bigger doubts. The end result is that cynicism leads us away from God and not toward Him.

Cynicism is the spirit of our age, its influence and tone permeates our culture, and it has become the supreme temptation of our age. People just can’t seem to find joy anymore and seem to be too knowledgeable for things like trust or hope. Catholic scholar R. R. Reno calls cynicism the perversion of going from an age of great achievements to a listless, detached age. A Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez at thirty-two years of age writes, “Unlike our parents, we never believed in anything. Our defining characteristic is cynicism.”

Yes, cynicism does protect people from crushing disappointments by risking nothing, but it also prevents people from doing anything. To be cynical is to be distant while claiming to be “in the know.” It offers a false security while destroying intimacy. A prayerful life is just the opposite. It believes, it hopes, it trusts, it dreams, and it asks for help, guidance, and provision while cynicism sits on the sidelines, critiques, cocoons, and remains passive. Prayer is active; it engages in the battle. When cynicism from the hand of Satan dulls the soul, prayer invigorates it.

Beginning on February 26, 2023, we will be beginning a seven-week sermon series on prayer taking us right to Easter Sunday called “Learning to Trust God.” Prayer is truly one of the major avenues in our spiritual lives where we can learn to “Trust God.” It is also the way to overcome the spirit of cynicism that so dominates our age. Be sure to be here these next few months as together we prayerfully learn to trust our God!

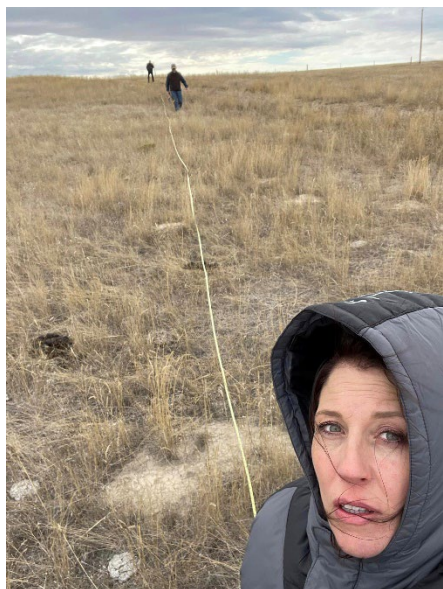
In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Darrell L. Nelson



South Dakota Missions Trip!!

Coming July 14-19, we will be doing a mission's trip to Oglala, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Back in December, I reached out to Dale Lusk of Merge Ministries to see what mission trip opportunities we could have for this coming summer! Merge Ministries recently started a partnership with a new ministry in Oglala called NAOMI House (Native American Outreach Ministry Inc.). NAOMI House is a non-profit mission home dedicated to providing a safe and loving home for Native American Children.

The executive director (Genevieve Dawn Skidmore) grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation and is a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe. She has a powerful testimony as seen on the website for NAOMI House (thenaomihouse.org), and this is part of her story. "Almost 20 years ago, Genevieve left South Dakota, a broken and abused young woman and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, not knowing the dramatic and life-changing encounter with God awaiting her there. This power-encounter brought to her much personal healing and deliverance, as well as a deep sense of her Kingdom calling. Genevieve is teaching the life-changing message of the Word of God, sharing a message of hope, with an insatiable passion to see others find freedom and discover purpose. Genevieve has a burden to raise awareness, educating others about Native American children and their need for Safe Houses on Reservations. She is also sharing the story of hope and movement of the Spirit of God upon the First Nations people, and how it will impact America and the Nations."



Here is the vision God has given Dawn and the team of leaders for the NAOMI House in Oglala.

The LONG-TERM plans include:

- a large 'ministry center'
- a shop
- a large 'recreation center' for indoor sports and basketball (for winter months)
- 2 large homes (1 for emergency shelter/ long-term home for kids and 1 for a 'moms program')
- a large playground/court/outdoor courtyard
- a 'school' at some point
- a chapel
- staff housing

This is clearly a big vision, but God has already been paving the way by providing 600 acres of tribal land, as well as unanimous Oglala tribal support and construction that is beginning this spring/summer! No doubt this ministry and facility will impact hundreds if not thousands of families in the years to come and be a constant source of God's love and peace in a community that has been suffering. NAOMI House is clear that they want this to be a mission to the whole family, not just the children and as you will see in these statistics below; the ministry needs for the entire family are staggering.

Here are a few facts about the Oglala Tribe/Pine Ridge Reservation

- Pine Ridge is home to 18,834 people (16,906 identify as Native American).
- Pine Ridge is one of nine Lakota reservations in the state of South Dakota.
- There are 46,855 members enrolled in the Oglala Tribe.
- This reservation is the location of the Wounded Knee Massacre where the US Army slaughtered nearly 300 Lakota people.
- This is the same tribe that Crazy Horse was from.
- The reservation encompasses 2.1 million acres of land which makes it the largest in land size of all reservations in the US.



Facts about life on the reservation

- Pine Ridge is known as the 2nd poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.
- Per Capita annual income is \$7,773 per year with many \$4,000 or less per year.
- Unemployment rate is over 80%. Only 3,131 people are employed.
- Two of the poorest communities in the US are located on Pine Ridge (*Allen #1 and Wounded Knee #4*).
- The average life expectancy of men is 47 and 55 for women.
- Teen suicide rate is 8x the national average.
- There is no crises center for youth under the age of 12.
- School dropout rate is over 70%.
- 10.7% of the native population has attained a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Infant mortality is 300% higher than the national average.
- 85% of families are affected by alcoholism.
- 58% of grandparents are raising their grandchildren.
- 50% of adults over 40 have diabetes.

(Stats are from <https://www.re-member.org/pine-ridge-reservation>)



As you can imagine, the NAOMI House is desperately needed in this community. They are suffering tremendously with very little opportunities to improve their circumstances. There is great pain both in daily living as well as historical trauma, and so we undertake this mission trip humbly knowing that our efforts cannot undo generations of pain, but we know that God loves every person on this reservation and that they are made in His image! We are

praying that God will raise up NAOMI House to reach deep into the lives of this community and provide safety and healing with the hope of Jesus! We have had great interest from volunteers for this Mission Trip (well over 20) and are having to limit the number of participants to 15 people in an effort to be culturally sensitive. So at this point, we have no more room for volunteers, but the goal is that we can send a group next year to continue the work, so there will hopefully be more opportunities for people to serve down the road. Please prayerfully consider how you can financially support this mission to come alongside NAOMI House as it will cost roughly \$600 per person for this mission trip. We have already received a tremendous outpouring of financial support, and we are humbled to see how God is at work in this mission!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me, and if you want to know more about NAOMI House, please check out this link thenaomihouse.org. I will be doing a moment for missions the first Sunday in May to dive in deeper into this Mission Trip and to share more with you about the community we will be serving. On the first Sunday in August, on missions Sunday, our team will share about what happened and how we saw God at work. Thanks again for all your prayers and support!



Team - SD - Naomi House

thenaomihouse.org

In Christ, Pastor Nathan

BIBLE LESSONS
MARCH

PRESCHOOL

Solomon Judges Wisely
Boy King Josiah
The Brave Queen
Shepherds Visit

ELEMENTARY

Daniel Eats Vegetables
Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
The Temple Is Rebuilt
OT/NT Overview



Our children are collecting an offering to support our World Vision Sponsored child from Nicaragua, Itza Jahaira Rivera Mercado. We were able to send \$100 to Mercy Ships with the extra money we received in 2022!

Yearly Goal: \$500

Offering total so far for 2023: \$56

MISSION KIDZ!

Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him"



Thank you to all of the wonderful Teachers and Youth Volunteers who work with our adorable nursery children! We greatly appreciate each one of you!

Amy Leffel
Mary Bremer
Chey Olaf
Rachel Deatherage
Nicole Nelson
Tami Little
Julie DeMeyer
Tina VanAernum

Mandie Nollet
Liz Fredericks
Jared Gehl
Jessamyn Gehl
Marion Bradley
Marie Tenney
Jim Tenney
Jessica Tenney

Ellie Deatherage
Levi Kern
Ella Loewe
Sophie Navarro
Stevie Westerlund
Paige Tuura
Maggie Greatsinger

Mission Kidz! is a ministry for children 6 weeks through 4th grade.

For parent's convenience, video of the services is livestreamed into the Mom's Room, located in a separate room in the nursery. Nursery children (Ages 6 weeks-36 months) can be checked in before or during the service. Preschool (3- and 4-year-olds) and Elementary (5-year-old through 4th Grade) are dismissed during the service. If you have any questions or would like to serve in this important ministry, please see Cindy Nelson, Michelle Kephart, or Kris Westerlund. Check out our Facebook page!

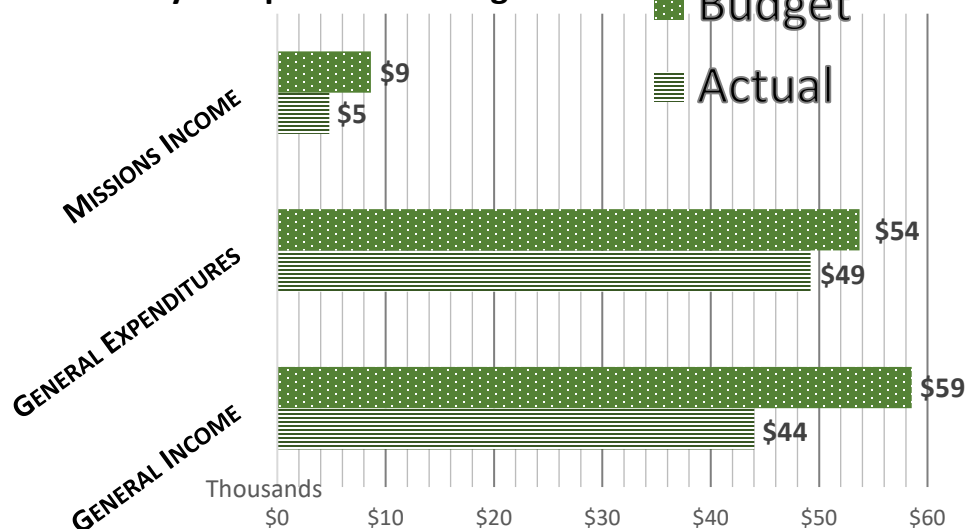
Prayer Request

Please pray for the right volunteers to fill our current Vacation Bible School needs: Co-Director, Snack Coordinator, K-5th Grade Craft Director, and K-2nd Grade Bible Teacher.

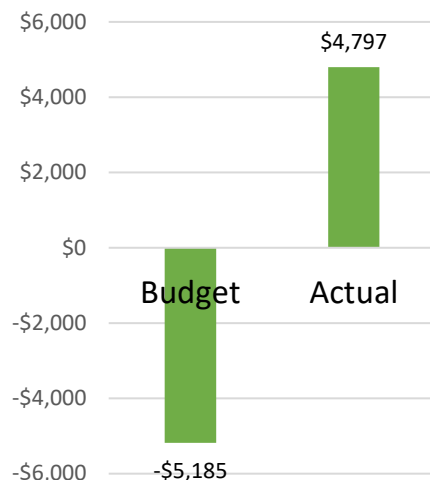


January Comparison to Budget

 Budget
 Actual



General Fund Surplus



March Sermon Schedule

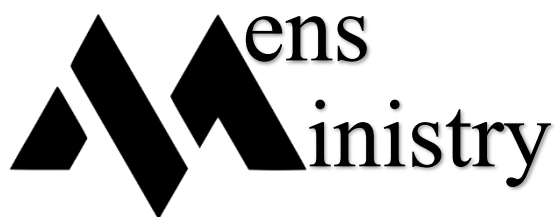
Learning to Trust God

- March 5 Learning to Pause
Luke 11:1; Psalm 131:1-2
- March 12 Learning to Worship
Luke 11:2-4; Philippians 4:4
- March 19 Learning to Ask
Luke 11:3; James 4:26
- March 26 Learning to Yield
John 10:27; Luke 11:28



Herbster Community Church *March Schedule*

- March 5: Pastor Sarah Risley
- March 12: Pastor Sam Moyer
- March 19: Pastor Sarah Risley
- March 26: Pastor James Walsh



All men are invited to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christ-centered fellowship every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Join us for
PICKLEBALL
at Mission Covenant
Church.



This is an extension of our SAM Ministry, but all adults are invited to play. We have the equipment – so come out, join the fun and bring a friend! Check out our Facebook page: Pickleball at MCC.



Mondays & Wednesdays
9:00-11:00 a.m.





If you are a mom with young kids,
we would love to see you at our
Thursday Playgroup!

**We are meeting from 10:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m. in the MMC.**

The goal of this group is to build community, support
and friendship for adults and children in the area, and it
is NOT limited to those within the MCC congregation,
so please invite your friends. The more the merrier!

Throughout the winter months we will be meeting in the
gym of MCC. In the spring we will transition back
outside to explore, adventure, and enjoy the beauty of
creation around us!

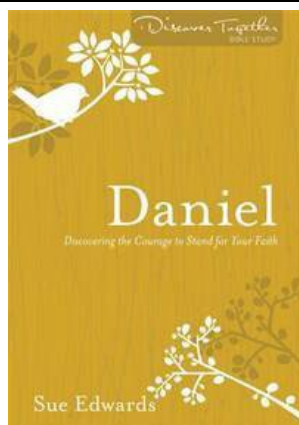
Please contact Lisa Sorvik with any questions.
(218) 390-3226 or lsorvik@gmail.com



**Saturday, March 4 & 18
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Bring your crafts, knitting, scrapbooking, etc. to work
on while spending time with other women. Bring your
own sack lunch! This is an open-house style event;
come and go as you can throughout the day.

Call Annie at 218-721-8048 with any questions.



MORNING BREAK – WINTER SESSION

A Study in the Book of Daniel

Discovering the Courage to Stand for your Faith

The book of Daniel has never been more relevant than it is today. We may not
have been kidnapped and sent to a foreign land like Daniel, but we can learn
much from him that applies to today's secularized society.

**Join us for Morning Break Women's Bible Study!
Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:15 a.m. Cost \$12**

Childcare Available

Teachers – Marcia Jamison & Michelle Thompson

A BIG
*thank
you* 

The Ruth House Fundraiser was a huge
blessing. **We raised \$2,500!** The
money went to Superior Light and Power
for the Ruth House Utilities.



**Good News Club is held
every Wednesday from
3:30-5:00 p.m. at
Northwestern Elementary
School. We need 2 more**

**volunteers at this time for the 5
remaining clubs of this year. Please
prayerfully consider this opportunity
and contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-
9059. Thank you, Mission Covenant,
for being such an amazing
sponsor/supporter all these years!**

Crossroads

The Crossroads Young Adult Group is going to see the movie *Jesus Revolution* on March 7! Details regarding meeting time and showtime are TBD. Signup is at the Information Table. Cost is \$5. Crossroads will also be meeting on March 14 and 28 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Spring Ahead

March 12, 2023



Order forms for purchasing Easter flowers to honor and remember loved ones will be available beginning March 5 at the Information Table. Orders will need to be placed by March 19.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26



ALL NIGHT BLITZ

MARCH 24TH 8PM - 5AM - COST \$30

STARTS AND FINISHES @
MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

GRADES 8-12TH

TRANSPORT PROVIDED TO WORLD OF WHEELS
AND BACK TO MISSION COVENANT

INFLATABLES

PRIZES

JUNK FOOD

SILENT DISCO

WORLD OF
WHEELS

WORSHIP

LAZER TAG

COMBAT ARCHERY

AND MORE!!

USE QR CODE TO
PRE-REGISTER



ALL NIGHT BLITZ 2023 IS PARTNERING WITH COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP & OTHER LOCAL YOUTH MINISTRIES



Spring Renewal 2023
**Empowered
& Equipped**

March 24th & 25th
Friday 6PM-9PM & Saturday 8AM-4PM

Guest Speakers:



Rev. Kara Stromberg,
Northwest Conference
Superintendent



Dr. Donna Harris,
President of
Minnehaha Academy

Find more information on vendor shop tables, conference schedule, breakout sessions, service opportunities, lunch menu, local lodging, and more on the registration page!

\$60 for both days includes lunch on Saturday!

\$35 for Friday only. \$50 for Saturday only.

Register at: www.WMNWC.org/spring-renewal

Riverwood Covenant Church
7189 69th Ave N, Rockford, MN

For inquiries, please call 763-477-9126 or email
office@riverwoodcovenant.org





SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

2023 Coupon Code is **"POP23"**

Early Bird Discount

From February 2 - April 1

\$25 off full weeks

\$10 off partial weeks

\$50 off for Mini and Adventure Camp
(4th-6th grades)

\$100 off for Tb, JH, SH and Adventure
(7th-Grad)

\$15 off per day of day camp



Sally Richards Memorial Scholarship

Sally was a missionary with the Evangelical Covenant Church to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire), where she worked as an accountant for a mission hospital. She also loved music and played trumpet in several bands. This Scholarship is set up by her family in her memory. The goal is to further the Lord's work, especially in overseas or cross-cultural missions. Applications and more information are at the Information Table. The deadline for applying for this scholarship is April 1.

MCC Women's Ministry presents:

"TABLE TALK"

1st Wednesday of the Month

April 5

May 2

June 7

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Mission Covenant Church
Fellowship Hall

Please join us for "Table Talk" -
a time of fellowship, connection and building
relationships.

Stay tuned for more information.



Mission Covenant is hiring a part-time
Custodian/Housekeeper to work
weekends.

*If you are interested in learning more, please contact
the church office for a job description!*

715-364-2738 or info@missioncovenatnchurch.org

Vacation Bible School

RAINFOREST RESCUE

June 12-16, 2023
Mission Covenant Church

Vacation Bible School has some important positions open for this year! The Co-director, Elementary Craft, K-2nd Grade Bible Teacher, and Snack Director positions are looking for volunteers. Please see Michelle Kephart if you have any questions or are able to help with any of these needs!

Save the Date!



**Come spend the weekend with your
church family at
Covenant Park Bible Camp!
July 7-9, 2023**

EXPERIENCE ALASKA

with Billy Molls

Entertainment. Adventure. Inspiration.



 *The Modern Day Mountain Man®*

Sportsman Dinner

Friday, April 14

Tickets On Sale NOW!

CRAFTER'S AND QUILTER'S RETREAT

April 12-16, 2023

April 19-23, 2023

COVENANT PARK BIBLE CAMP

PRICING:

Lakeside Lodge or Borgen
Cabins: \$52/night.

For day use only, rate is
\$15/day. Please include a 20%
deposit with your registration.

Save 10% on overnight fees
through March 1.

CONTACT US

3402 Covenant Park Rd

Mahtowa, MN 55707

218-389-6398

office@covenantpark.org

covenantpark.org

It is a relaxed time for you to
decide what you want to do and
when you want to do it. Quilt and
craft, take a hike,
sit by the lake, read a book-the
schedule is yours to enjoy and
come and go as you wish.

Work areas will be setup in the
main room of the NEW
LAKESIDE LODGE, approx 4-
6ft of table space is provided for
each guest. Kitchen will also be
available in this building for meal
preparation. The kitchen is fully
furnished with a fridge, freezer,
stove, oven, microwave, toaster,
coffee pot, cookware and dishes.
All housing units have bathrooms
available in the building, and are
handicap accessible. Please note
on your registration if you will
need handicap accommodations.



We look forward to having you!



— MISSIONS —

Some of my fondest memories are of the stories told by my parents and grandparents from when they were growing up. As technology has advanced over the years, these legendary stories are often accompanied by us either marveling at how it has improved our standard of living, or we find ourselves longing for “the good ol’ days.” In a lot of ways, it seems like our childhood existed during a much simpler time despite the challenges we have all faced. When hardships occurred, it was truly character shaping because of the timely, supportive ways family and community mentored us through those difficult situations.

Today’s teens are navigating a much different world than what we grew up knowing. Looking at regional survey results from area middle and high school students, our local mental health statistics are similar to state and national trends. Students are reporting issues of cyberbullying, substance abuse, vaping, and rising rates of anxiety and depression. It is undeniable how extended periods of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic had detrimental implications due in large part because it exacerbated underlying factors such as declining home stability and the fact that technology permeates almost every aspect of their daily life. The same supports we relied upon during our formative years have in many instances been replaced with our teens seeking fulfillment through screen time. Young adults report spending an average of 7+ hours a day on social media. Think of the influence this has on shaping our young people’s minds, character, and well-being. In recognizing these widespread needs, many schools and health care providers are prioritizing mental health support for students. What can we as a church do to address these concerning trends?

It is the work of the Holy Spirit that nudges us to not simply express concern about the growing rates of anxiety and depression within our young people, but to act. Our church has a vibrant children’s ministry and youth group. Encouraging your children to attend will not only help them find community, a true sense of belonging, but they will meet a God who is sovereign over the chaos of life. We know God doesn’t exempt us from experiencing hardship, but He gives us peace amid life’s challenges. In moments of uncertainty, model remembering the character of God because that is what enables us to courage on. “For the LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you; He will quiet you with His love; He will rejoice over you with singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17) He is our joy, our hope and our refuge in times of trouble.

Through your monthly financial gifts to missions, we support incredible ministries such as Child Evangelism Fellowship, Youth for Christ, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, CRU, and Covenant Park Bible Camp. All are devoted to drawing young people closer to God, to grow them in their relationship with Him. Pray for these ministries, volunteer, and support them financially. Encourage your loved ones and their friends to attend camp or campus ministry events. Your partnership with these important ministries helps to shine the light of hope to those who feel like they are living in darkness.

Let’s shine the light of God’s love together and for His glory!

Heather Walsh

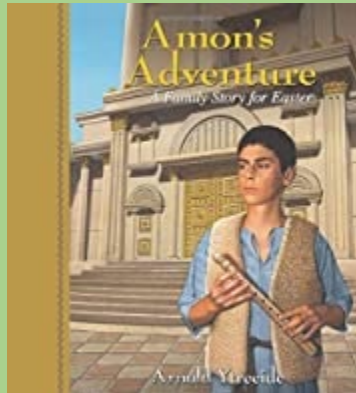
March
2023

LIBRARY LINES

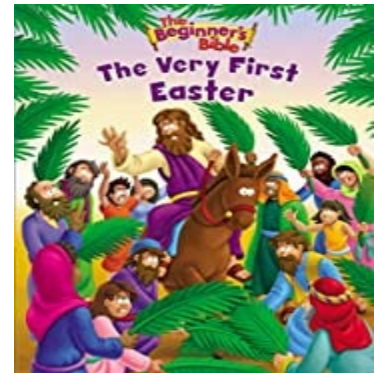
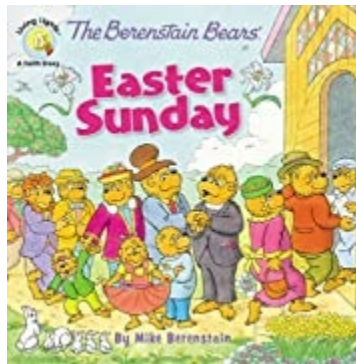


And here we are in Lent already! Our library has books for adults and children, and a family devotional as we enter into preparation for Easter.

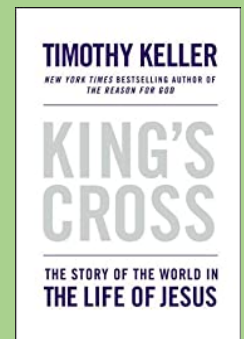
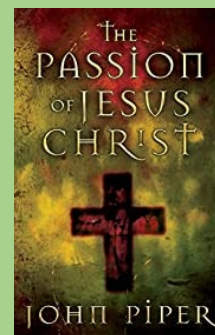
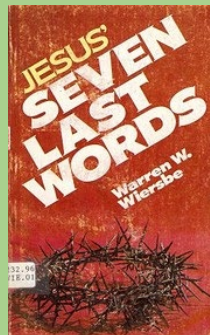
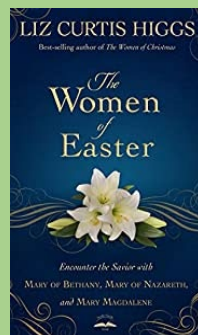
A devotional to do as
a family, and a lovely
picture book to
share:



Our titles for the younger ones.



For older
Readers:





And with the new sermon series, see the January issue of Library Lines (on the library door) for volumes for all ages about prayer and trust in God.

March Ministry Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3pm - Confirmation, MK 3:30pm - Youth Group, 5:15pm - Youth Group,	2 6pm - Worship Practice,	3	4 9am - Craft Day, CE Wing
5 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 9:45am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional Worship,	6 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board	7 9am - Morning Break, Rm	8 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3pm - Confirmation, MK 3:30pm - Youth Group, 5:15pm - Youth Group,	9 6pm - Worship Practice,	10	11
12 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 9:45am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional Worship,	13 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 7pm - Council Meeting, CE	14 9am - Morning Break, Rm	15 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC	16 6pm - Worship Practice,	17	18 9am - Craft Day, CE Wing 9am - Rural Care & Share
19 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 9:45am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional Worship,	20 9am - Pickle ball, MMC 6:30pm - Elder Board	21 9am - Morning Break, Rm	22 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3pm - Confirmation, MK 3:30pm - Youth Group, 5:15pm - Youth Group,	23 6pm - Worship Practice,	24 All Night Blitz Friday 24-Saturday 25	25
26 8:30am - Contemporary 8:30am - Mission Kidz!, CE 9:45am - Contemporary 11am - Traditional Worship,	27 9am - Pickle ball, MMC	28	29 7:30am - Men's Bible Study, 9am - Pickle Ball, MMC 3pm - Confirmation, MK 3:30pm - Youth Group, 5:15pm - Youth Group,	30 6pm - Worship Practice,	31	

March: Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Kern, Tyler & Ana Stroede, Kendie Thompson, Cavin Thompson, Chad & Michelle	2 Williams, Gail	3	4 Berggren, Robert Stack, Janice Weyandt, Andres
5	6 Navarro, Rena	7 	8 Csomos, Joe Holly, Keith Johnson, Dianah	9 Polkoski, Julia Soyring, Jerry & Linda	10 Burfield, Tom Lind, Brady	11 Deatherage, Jason & Rachel Wolden, Laura
12 Hill, Dennis & Arlene	13 Anttila, Spencer Nelson, Elijah	14	15 Hansen, Kensey	16 Kern, Tyler	17 Risley, Roger & Mary Stauty, Brian	18 Holsclaw, Shane
19 Holly, Lenore	20	21 Teal, Ryan	22 Landwehr, Charlie Mullozzi, Kim	23 Dalbec, Janet	24 Johnson, Caitlin Johnson, Connor Lundberg, Dorothy	25 
26	27 Lindsey, Julie	28 Baumgardner, Jayne Rusboldt, Deb	29 Granquist, Kyle Weyandt, Kadi	30 Johnson, Mary	31 Trebilcock, Cindy	