



"THE STARTER"

July/ August 2025

Rev. Mark Harder. Minister

Our email: 1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net

Web page: firstcongregationalperu.net

Phone 815-223-0722

Music Summer

Sermon Series

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------|
| June 22 | At Calvary | #313 |
| June 29 | Freedom Sunday Pastor Gone | |
| July 6 | That's Who I Praise Brandon Lake | |
| July 13 | Pastor Gone | |
| July 20 | How Great Thou Art | #16 |
| July 27 | VBS Sunday | |
| August 3 | The Jesus Way Phil Wickham | |
| August 10 | Amazing Grace | #299 |
| August 17 | Pastor Gone | |
| August 24 | Hard Fought Hallelujah | |
| | Brandon Lake/Jelly Roll | |
| August 31 | Be Thou My Vision | #400 |

Liberty Village Service

Pastor Mark will be doing monthly service at Liberty Village in Peru. The next couple months will be July 22th, August 26th at 3:30PM. (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE)

Family Bible Trivia Night

July 16, August 20

Walking Club

Meeting 1st and 3rd Tuesday Evenings from 6-7PM. Location to be announced.

Everyone is invited.

Calling All Men

Enjoy breakfast and a time of devotion. Men's Breakfast at Liberty Family Restaurant at 9:00AM.

July 26, August 23

Peoria Chiefs

Saturday, July 12 meet at the church by 5:00PM

Thursday Coffee Hour

You're invited to join for coffee and an easy chat at Parsonage at 10:00AM.

July 10



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED IN ANYWAY TO MAKE VBS A SUCCESS!!

Concert and BBQ

Join us for a free family-friendly outdoor concert featuring music and testimony! There will be a variety of music in English and Spanish, including hymns, Christian contemporary songs, and children's music. We will also provide a build-your-own hot dog bar, chips, cookies and drinks. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Call the church office for more information.

Saturday, August 9 @5PM.

Session Board Meeting Summary

The **Session Board** held its monthly meeting June 11. Diana reported the **Kan Do Club** is preparing for the Vendor Fair that will be held on July 19 this year with a Christmas in July theme. We have 20 vendors already signed up. Sign-up sheets for the bake sale and also volunteers will be posted in the Narthex. We will also be having a lunch counter so people can come and enjoy lunch and shop. **Christian ED** is holding VBS on July 22-24. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to help that day. We are still asking for some donated supplies, food to help that day. A **spaghetti dinner** will be held Sunday, June 20 from 5-7 to help offset the cost of VBS. It is open to the public for dine in or carry out. A free will offering will be accepted. Meal will include spaghetti, bread, salad and dessert. A bake sale will accompany the dinner event. If you can donate a baked item it would be appreciated. The **Trustees** are looking at material to rebuild the canopy on the north side. Also, gathering estimates for a new heating system. The grounds are in serious need of weeding. The soap dispenser has been replaced in the ladies restroom and the spot on the wall in the stall has been painted. **Pastor** will be away at the Covenant Conference where he will be recognized for his years of service, June 25 – July 2. He will also be gone August 11-19. Dean will fill the pulpit June 29, July 13 and August 17. Liberty Village communion services will be on the 4th Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. which is a time change. **Family Bible trivia night** will be the 3rd Wednesday at 5 p.m. in June, July and August. Families will bring their own food for dinner and trivia and other games will be held. There are a few folks planning to join the church. Some who attended the luncheon in March are still considering it. **Abby and 3 friends** have been given approval to hold a lemonade stand on the grounds to raise money for St. Jude. We hope all will support them. An all church **picnic pot luck** will be held on July 3 at 6 p.m. and fireworks will be observed at dusk. Guests are welcome to join us. The next board meeting will be July 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Pastor out of the Office

Pastor Mark will be out of the office from June 25th through July 2nd. Also, July 13, August 11-19.

July 3rd Celebration

Join us for an all church potluck picnic on July 3rd. This is a true potluck no meat is provided. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy Peru's Fireworks on the lawn from Water Street.

Discussion Group

September will be here before we know it. The Wednesday Discussion group resume meetings in September. The group is open to anyone who wants to join us. We discuss biblical topics, news topics applied to religion or news topics of interest. We will meet the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday at the church at 11 a.m. each month. Pastor will conduct the group the 2nd and 4th Wednesday. Diana will lead the group the 1st and 5th Wednesday unless someone else has a topic. We will skip the 3rd Wednesday as it is Pizza Praise and Prayer night. Lunch will be ordered in unless the group decides to go out that day.

Please contact Pastor (574-993-2577) or Diana (815-228-5352) or the Church (815 -223-0722) if you won't be attending.

2025 dates to meet:

2026 dates to meet:

September dates: 3,10,24

October dates: 1,8,22,29

November 5, 12

December 3, 10

January 7, 14, 28

February & March 4, 11, 25

April 1, 8, 22, 29

May 6, 13, 27

Please come and join us and share information with us.



***Pray for the health of Mike Beuster, Dick Ristau, Betty Martuzzo Marilyn Dunker, Pete & Char Belski, Les & Rita Tieman, Bernie Dahl, Charlotte Oglesby, Pastor Karl & Connie Johnson. Tricia Glasper's Family, Vicki Hall and Family, Lynne Rybarczyk, John & Jeanne VanSchaick, Sarge Massat, Amy Crouch and Family.*

*** Holy Spirit will touch each loved one whose name is on the Salvation Cross and bring them to the Lord.*

***Pray for the daily grace for our shut-ins:
Jane McClintock Lillian Mini*

*** Pray for Peace Mission in India caring for children & widows*

*** Pray for the Surbers with Supply & Multiply in Haiti*

*** Pray for Abigail Women's Center helping women in crisis*

*** Pray for Cup of Cold Water supporting missionaries*

*** Pray for Wycliffe Bible Translators*

*** Pray for Jews for Jesus*

*** Pray for Transport for Christ reaching truckers at truck stops*

*** Pray for our local food pantries*

*** Pray for PADS providing shelter for the homeless*

*** Pray for persecuted Christians around the world*

***Pray for Trans World Radio Broadcasting bringing God's message into countries that are closed to missionaries*



Christmas In July Vendor Fair

This year, the Kan Do Club is sponsoring a vendor fair during the summer on July 19th. We are theming the event as Christmas in July. This

was at the request of our vendors. We are excited that we will be able to offer outdoor space as well as indoor. Many have taken advantage of the early registration and it looks to be a great turn out. The event is open to the public with no admission fee. We will have a bake sale and lunch counter. We are looking for volunteers to help set up the event and also work on the day of the event. We are asking folks to bake items for the bake sale as well. The profit from the event will go to the Kan Do Club who will then be able to assist with some financial support for things the church may want or need. Watch for sign up sheets to be in the Narthex. This year, some of the vendors registered so far include: AVON, Norwex & T-Shirts, Shosh De Signs (wood signs & Crafts), Fur Mama Crafts Creations (tumblers, ink pens, etc), Memory & More Tiles, Mustang Sally (crochet towels), Prairie Center Alpaca (goods made from alpaca wool), Just Need One (buttons, created design statues), Penny's Moving Art & Mixed Media (Coasters made out of ceramic tiles), Snow Shoe Designs, Brindle & Bows, Lori's Flories (wreaths, florals and other crafts), R&B Ceramics, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Park Lane Jewelry. We hope everyone will take the opportunity to stop in between 9 & 2 to shop and support our vendors and enjoy some lunch. We have the privilege of a DJ available to provide music during the event. So, stop in and see what we have to offer.

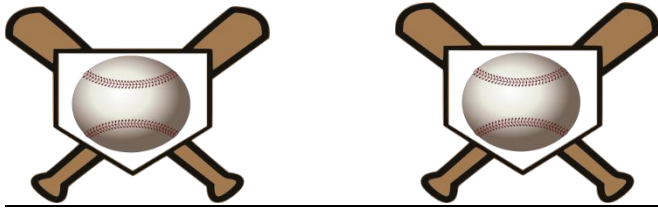


Music Summer

Sermon Series

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**God's truths are not bricks to throw at
people. They are bread to feed people.**

Randy Alcorn



**No matter how far you've walked
away from God, the return trip is only
one step.**



Patriot-isms

*Patriotism is remembering the past, respecting the
present and preparing for the future.*

Patriotism is not what you say, it's what you do.

*Patriotism is awe and wonder at what is and what
can be.*

Patriotism is duty and diligence.

*Patriotism is an appreciation pf peace and a
willingness to defend it.*



WORRY LOOKS AROUND

SORRY LOOKS BACK

FAITH LOOKS UP



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Recitals

*Voice/Piano Recital – Friday, August. 1 from
5:30PM to 7:30PM*

*Illinois Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra –
Saturday, August 2.*



evolving over times as the United States grew and expanded.



Flag Day

Flag Day commemorates June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress determined the composition of the nation's banner: "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

The holiday is a time to celebrate American values, including freedom, unity, and patriotism.

To properly honor the flag, you want to be sure you're displaying it correctly: Raise the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously. Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor. The flag should never be transported flat or horizontally, but always aloft.

Symbolism of the flag elements:

Stars:

The 50 white stars on a blue field represent the 50 states of the United States.

Stripes:

The 13 alternating red and white stripes represent the 13 original colonies that formed the nation.

Colors:

- *RED: Symbolizes hardiness, valor, and courage, representing the readiness to sacrifice for the country.*
- *WHITE: Represents purity, innocence, and independence from other countries, reflecting the nation's core values and ideals.*
- *BLUE: Represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice, symbolizing the nation's commitment to upholding its principles and ideals.*

The flag's design and symbolism are rooted in the nation's history, with the stars and stripes









The Power of Bended Knee

Birds go to sleep on their perches, but they never fall off. This is because the tendons in the bird's legs are constructed so that when the leg is bent at the knee, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws refuse to let go until the knees are unbent again. The bended knee gives the bird the ability to hold on to his perch so tightly.

Isn't this also the secret of holding power of the Christian? Daniel found this to be true. Surrounded by pagan environment, tempted to compromise with evil, urged to weaken his grip on God, he refused to let go. He held firm when others faltered because he was a man of prayer. He knew the power of the bended knee, from sleeping birds we can learn the secret of holding things which are precious to us – honesty, purity, thoughtfulness, honor and character. That secret is the knee bent in prayer, seeking to get a firmer grip on those values which make life worth living. When we hold firmly to God in prayer, we can rest assured he will hold tightly to us.



*I don't walk with God. I can't keep up
with him. He walks with me, and
waits for me every time I fall behind.*



Thank You!!

A HUGE Thank You to Bernie Dahl and Nancy Balda for spending the last several days washing dishes, cupboards and getting things organized. Thank You!



CONGRATULATIONS

*Cordell Pelka will be graduating from
Hall High School on May 18th. Elijah
Harder will be graduating from Home
School.*



"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

*Faith is when you praise God in the storm,
you trust Him in the valley,
and you follow Him in the dark.
Amen.*



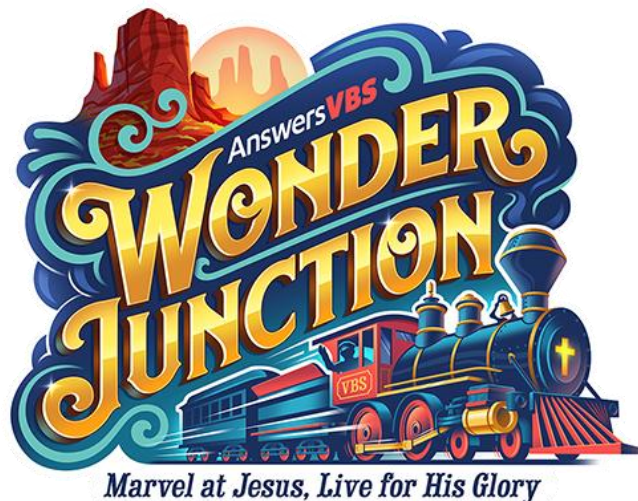
*If you judge people, you have no time
to love them.*



*Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to
read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to
read 100 pages of a popular novel?*



Agree with God
Move with God
End with God
Never Doubt God



*I Don't know much but 3 things I do.
Prayer has power
Faith moves mountains
God love never fails
Amen*





Congratulations Confirmation Class of 2025

*Evan Hall
Jeremiah Farling
Saleen Farling
Theresa Panicucci
Abigail Redmon*



GRACE is when God gives us good things that we don't deserve.

MERCY is when He spares us from bad things we deserve.

BLESSINGS are when He is generous with both.

TRULY, we can never run out of reasons to thank Him. God is good all the time.

**IF GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO YOU,
PRAISE HIM, AMEN.**



Vitas

[illegible]

Sue Gillio will be hosting a Flute day for her students on February 22, 2025 from 9AM-5PM. There will be a concert at 5:00PM open to everyone.

Sunday, February 9th is Scout Sunday. Cub Scout Pack 3709, who meet here in the church will be bringing in the flags and leading the Pledge of Allegiance. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know some of the families and scouts.



Faith Salander will be hosting a violin recital of her students, here on February 8th at 3:00PM with a reception to follow.



Jen Ebner will be hosting a parent night out on Febraury 14th from 5-9PM. She will be looking for volunteers to assist. For more information please see Jen.

I am the New Year. I am unused, unspotted, without blemish. I stretch before you three hundred and sixty five days long. I will present each day in its turn, a new leaf in the Book of Life for you to place upon it your imprint.

It remains for you to make of me what you will. If you write with firm, steady strokes, my pages will be a joy to look upon when the next New Year

comes. If the pen falters, if uncertainty to doubt should mar the page, it will become a day to remember with pain.

I am the New Year. Each hour of the three hundred sixty five days, I will give you sixty minutes that have never known the use of man. White and pure, I present them. It remains for you to fill them with sixty jeweled seconds of love, hope, endeavor, patience and trust in God.

I am the New Year. I am here – but once past, I can never be recalled. Make me your best!



WHERE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1431 FOURTH ST.
PERU
815-223-0722 WITH ANY QUESTIONS



Thank You

VBS Prayer Checklist

*****Pray for all the planning that is being done for this year's VBS***

*****Pray that we would have all the volunteers we need for a successful VBS***

*****Pray for health and safety for all volunteers, church, staff, and children coming to VBS***

*****Pray that the signup process would be smooth and easy for parents and staff***

*****Pray that every day VBS would run smoothly***

*****Pray that all of the children coming To VBS would leave knowing that Jesus loves them***

*****Pray that children will make a commitment to follow Jesus at VBS***

*****Pray that new families would join the church as a result of VBS***

VBS IS COMING



WHO IS JESUS

Grab your bandana and dust off your boots! We have tickets to Wonder Junction, where we will discover who Jesus is and how to live for his glory.

- *Learn nuggets of truth through hands-on Bible lessons
- *Explore God's world through science experiments
- *Munch on tasty vittles
- *Gallop in for exciting games
- *Create fun and creative crafts
- *Sing toe-tapping tunes

WHEN

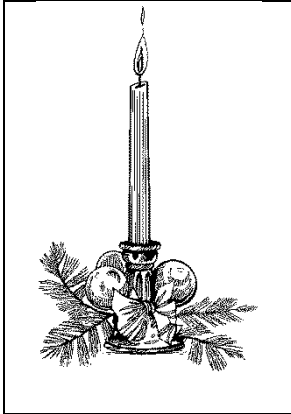
July 22nd 9AM-12PM

July 23rd 9AM-12PM

July 24th 9AM-2PM (lunch will be served with water activities following)



When Christ rules the heart.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We will be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with our scripture, music & candlelit filled service at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All are welcome!

Join the Choir on December 15th.

Have you always wanted to sing with the choir but could not make a weekly commitment? We're inviting all those of you who answered yes to join us on the 15th. Come to the choir room at 10:00 AM and we will rehearse a Christmas carol from the hymnal. Make a joyful noise!

Offering Envelopes

We will be discontinuing the use of preprinted offering envelopes in 2025. We hope those who use these envelopes are not inconvenienced.



With Sincere Sympathy

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Vicki, Brianna and Evan Hall. Terry was called to the Lord's side on November 4th. Terry was an active member of our church family.

Don Walker went home to the Lord on October 27th. He had been a faithful member here since 1954.

Sandy Starr went home to the Lord on November 4th. Services are pending.

Mitten Tree



We will once again collect hats, gloves and scarves for our mitten tree. These will be distributed to area schools to keep kids warm.

Operation Christmas Child

'Oh yea of little faith.' That applied to me (Ellen) regarding the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child. I thought it was crazy to load the narthex table up with 50 empty shoeboxes. We only filled 9 last year. Well, this week I delivered 29 to the processing center. The Lord worked through all of you bringing these gifts to over 220 million kids in 170 countries. I also want to thank those of you who donated money to cover the postage costs. What a loving congregation we have!

IMMERSE The Reading Bible™



The small group meetings will be Dec. 20th at 10:00AM. We will be discussing pages 367-482. Asking the questions: 1. What stood out to you this week? 2. Was there anything confusing or troubling? 3. Did anything make you think differently about God? 4. How might this change the way we live?

Discussion Group

The Discussion Group meets on Wednesdays with an alternating schedule. The first, third, and fifth Wednesday will be at 11:30 at rotating

restaurants. The second and fourth Wednesday will be 11:00AM at the church and having lunch here. Everyone is Welcome! Any questions see Pastor or Diana Dornbusch.



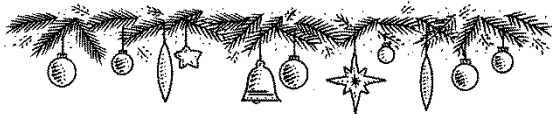
Pads and Food Pantries

Don't forget the shelter and food pantries this winter. The donation boxes on the Welcome Table are for monetary donations for both Hall & Ill. Valley food pantries.



Finances through October

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Year to Date Income | \$154,150.25 |
| Year to Date Expenses | \$204,616.54 |
| Shortage | \$ 50,466.29 |



The hanging of the greens will be following the worship service on December 1st. Decorating for this sacred season is such a festive time of fellowship. Please stay and join us.



Peru Christmas Parade

We will be entering a float in Peru's Christmas parade on December 7th beginning at 5:00 p.m. If you'd like to ride on the float, please see Dean Tieman. But everyone else, come on out and cheer us on!



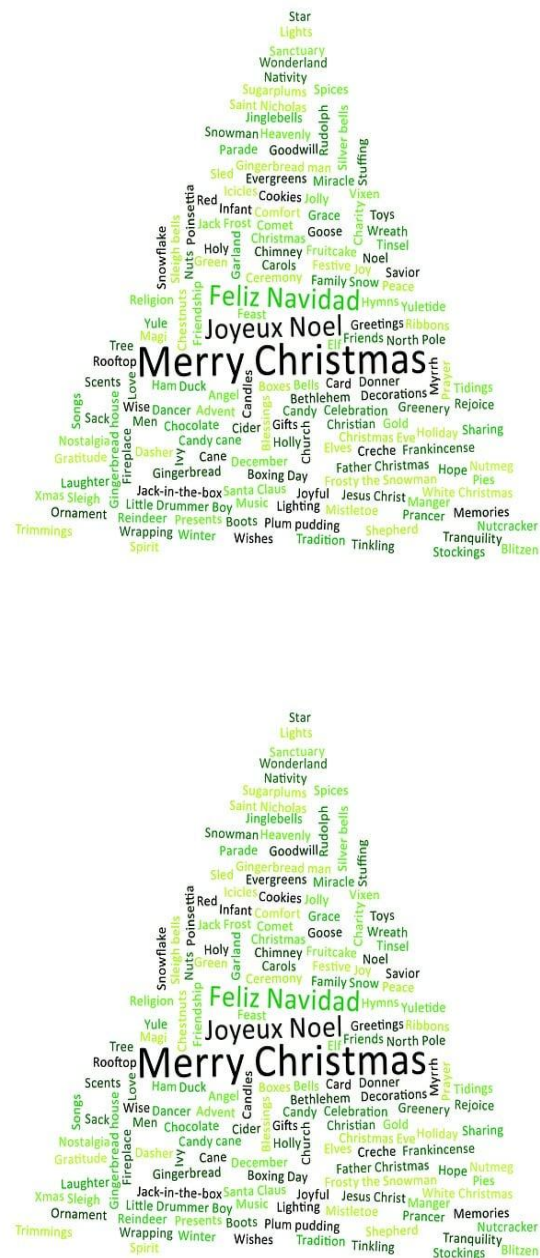
Our Annual Meeting will be January 26, 2025. Those responsible for reports to be included in the

Annual Report are asked to have them submitted by January 12th. Thank you.



Session Board Meeting Summary

The Session Board held its monthly meeting November 13. A moment of silence was held in respect of the passing of Terry Hall. Christian Education reported the Peru Christmas parade will be December 7 at 5 p.m. Decorating the float will be at 9 a.m. at Tieman Builders. Sunday Funday will be December 1 from 4-6 p.m. All Mission donations are up to date for the missionaries. Diaconate is gearing up for the Christmas season. We will be hanging the greens on Sunday, December 1 after worship. We hope many will stay to help decorate. You may be contacted to light the Advent candle on one of the 4 Sundays in December before Christmas. Trustees have had the handicap toilet in the ladies restroom raised and moved. A new grab bar has been installed. We also addressed more boiler issues. Also we are hiring a new cleaning person. December 15 Flutes for Vets will be hosting a holiday recital in the Sanctuary. Pastor will be inviting those who may be interested in membership to the church to attend a luncheon after January 1. Pastor will also be doing at service at Liberty Village starting December 26th month. He is looking for a couple of volunteers to go with him to help serve communion. We no longer will have offering envelopes beginning January 2025. People are welcome to remember their envelope number and use a small white envelope to put their tithe in the offering plates. We are still searching for a part time maintenance person. The Kan Do Club reported they will meet in January to begin preparations for 2025. Anyone else interested in joining the committee should contact Diana D. Pizza, Praise and Prayer will continue first Wednesday monthly at 5 p.m. Coffee with Pastor continues every 3rd Thursday of the month; men's breakfast is ongoing the last Saturday of each month at Liberty Restaurant and the book club continues to meet monthly. Pastor Mark will be gone December 26 – January 2. Dean has agreed to take the pulpit on December 29th. The constitution

[illegible]



I always get to
where I am going
by walking away
from where
I have been.

While references are made available for ease of finding specific scripture references, those references do not appear within the actual text of scripture. This makes for uninterrupted reading of God's word. Created with the look and feel of a paperback book, and written using the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, the most readable translation available, Messiah enables you to easily read and understand the Bible.



Back to School with God

Be still, and know I am God.

Psalm 46:10

All things God works for the good.

Romans 8:28

Cast all my anxiety on Him.

1Peter 5:7

Trust in the Lord with all my heart.

Proverbs 3:5

Open my eyes to see the truth.

Psalm 119:18

Show me your ways, Lord.

Psalm 25:4

Oh Lord, you are my strength & shield.

Psalm 28:7

Let love and faithfulness never leave me

Proverbs 3:4

As you go on your way,

May Christ go with you.

May He go before you to show you the way.

May He go behind you to encourage you,

Beside you to befriend you,

Above you to watch over you,

Within you to give you peace.



It was only a Quarter

A preacher from out of state accepted a call to a church in Houston. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the city bus. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

The Bible Reading Experience Program

Part of NLT Immerse: The Reading Bible, Complete Set, the Winner of the 2022 Christian Book award for Bible of the Year!

Messiah is the first of six volumes of Immerse:

Immerse

The Bible Reading Experience

Messiah takes the reader on a new and unique journey through every book of the New Testament. Each part of Messiah begins with one of the Gospels, and together combine to provide the reader with enjoyable and impactful readings all centered on Jesus. The end result is a Bible developed for the purpose of being read and understood, not referred to. Messiah is a new way to interact with God's Word.

Messiah delivers scripture to the reader as it was originally created: without chapter or verse breaks.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it. It's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare. They will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door and then handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver smiled and replied, "Aren't you the new preacher? I have been thinking a lot about starting back to church and wasn't sure where to go. I just wanted to see what you would do is I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your son for a quarter."

People watch us as Christians and will put u to the test. Always be on guard and remember tht you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."



*coming this
August:*



I M M E R S E

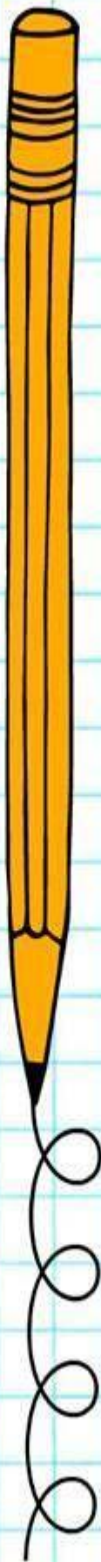
The Bible Reading Experience™

Immerse will be a church-wide Bible reading experience with daily readings, small groups for discussion, and weekly messages from based on what we've read.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Daily readings (5 days/week) from *Immerse: Messiah* (book provided)
- Monthly small group meetings to discuss our readings
- Weekly sermons about what we've read

the ABC's of Praying for Students



Attitude ... Psalm 14:14
 Boldness ... Psalm 27:1
 Courage ... John 1:9
 Discernment ... Philippians 1:9-10
 Enthusiasm ... Colossians 3:23
 Friendliness ... Proverbs 18:24
 Generosity ... 2 Corinthians 4:7
 Humility ... Philippians 2:3-5
 Initiative ... 1 John 3:18
 Joyfulness ... Philippians 4:4
 Knowledge ... Proverbs 18:15
 Listening ... Proverbs 12:15
 Maturity ... 1 Corinthians 14:20
 Neighbors ... Mark 12:31
 Overflow ... Romans 15:13
 Perseverance ... Galatians 6:4
 Quiet ... Proverbs 24:11
 Respect ... Romans 12:10
 Self-control ... 2 Peter 1:5-7
 Thankfulness ... 1 Chronicles 16:34
 Understanding ... Psalm 119:130
 Victory ... Psalm 18:24
 Wisdom ... James 3:17
 eXcellence ... Proverbs 3:4
 Youthfulness ... 1 Timothy 4:12
 Zeal ... Romans 12:11



juliesanders.org

*As you go on your way,
 May Christ go with you.
 May He go before you to show you the
 way.
 May He go behind you to encourage
 you,
 Beside you to befriend you,
 Above you to watch over you,
 Within you to give you peace.*



Prayer Cross

A prayer cross is at the front of the sanctuary. All of us know and love someone who doesn't have a relationship with the Lord. You're invited to write the 1st name of that person on a card and we will all pray for them. We'll pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to these people leading them to come to the Lord's side.

There are plenty of cards on the table. Let's all pray for those we love and care about to draw close to Jesus.

missionaries



May Finances

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Tithes & Offerings</i> | \$9005.00 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Expenses | \$15,555.15 |
|----------|-------------|



Wednesday Discussion Group

A group of folks have continued to meet on Wednesdays at the church at 11 a.m. for discussion time and then lunch. Discussions range from faith based, current events and other topics people have to offer. The group is open to anyone interested in attending. We will be taking a summer break from June 1 to September 1. During that time we will meet for fellowship and lunch the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of August at 11:30 am.

July 10th we will be meeting at Four Star Restaurant and July 31st at Senica Golf Course. If you would like to join us, we welcome you. Please let Pastor Mark know of your interest or contact the church office. We hope to have many join.



A Pencil Maker Told the Pencil

Five important lessons just before putting it in the box.

***Everything you do will leave a mark.*

****You can correct the mistakes you make.**

***What is important is what is inside of you.*

***In life, you will undergo painful sharpening*

which will make you better.

***To be the best pencil, you must allow yourself to be held and guided by the hand that holds you. We all need to be sharpened. May this parable encourage you to know that you are a special person, with unique God-given talents and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed and, like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside you.*



*Prayer is sitting in the silence until it silences us,
Choosing gratitude until we are grateful,
and praising God until we ourselves are an act of
Praise.*

Richard Rohr



Fifteen Characteristics of Faith

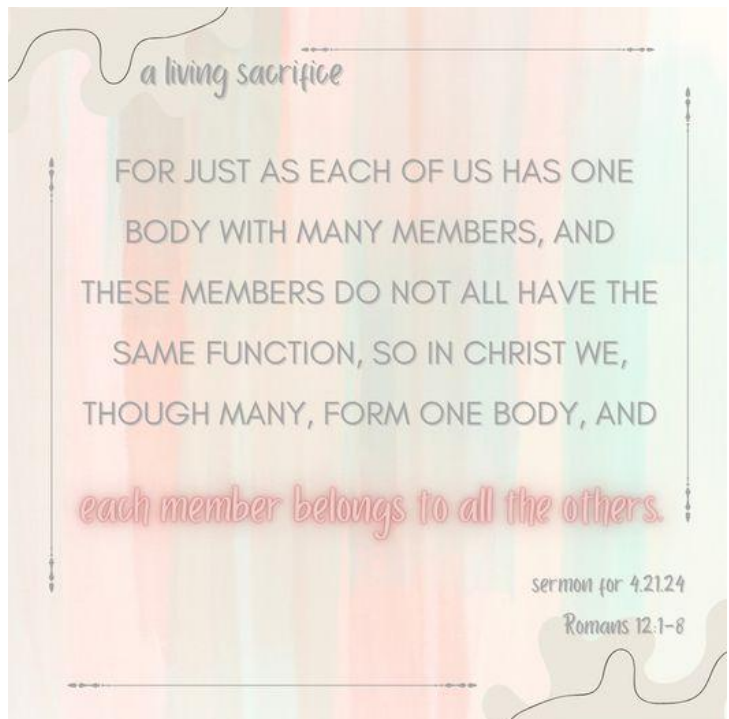
1. *Faith is a choice.*
2. *Faith is a step of obedience.*
3. *Faith is a spiritual exercise.*
4. *Faith is taking God at His word.*
5. *Faith is saying yes to God.*
6. *Faith is looking to Jesus for everything.*
7. *Faith is knowing we are never without hope.*
8. *Faith is what lifts us out of our circumstances.*
9. *Faith is not holding anything back from God.*
10. *Faith is being obedient even if we don't feel like it.*
11. *Faith is a gift from God as we read His Word.*

12. *Faith is knowing that everything will work out.*

13. *Faith is a way out of our limitations.*

14. *Faith is the mother of hope.*

15. *Faith is the road of peace.*



Landscaping

Over the past few weeks and with the rains, the weeds are growing fast. Some of our folks have already taken time to weed some of the landscape and we thank them for their time and work. However, there is still a number of areas around the church including the playground, the parsonage and the white fence between the church and hospital that need help. If you have the time and would like to adopt an area to work this summer and keep the weeds pulled, it will help keep the grounds looking manicured. It would be similar to the Adopt a Landscape project we did a few years ago. You do not need to trim bushes. It's the weeds that are getting out of hand. More time will be necessary in the beginning to get the area under control followed by regular monitoring will keep it under control. If you have a specific area you are interested in working, please let Diana Dornbusch know, and

she will keep track. If you want to know what is available, ask Diana. Thank you all in advance. Many hands make the work less hard.

