

# CLEVELAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

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No. 4



## COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED

*By David Kester, Minister*

Joe Hammond owned and operated an auto-body shop in Sheldon, WI. His slogan painted on the side of his shop and on his wrecker was "Our Business is a Wreck." His business quite literally was wrecks. His lot was full of smashed and broken cars. Joe never dealt with pristine new cars. He dealt with wrecks but he did not leave them as wrecks. He rebuilt and restored them completely. Joe transformed those wrecked cars. When he was finished with those cars, they shone as though they were brand new.

Jesus Christ deals with wrecks too. He always has. When He walked this earth, the Pharisees accused Jesus of being a friend of sinners. He said, "I am guilty as charged. It's why I came." He said, "It is not the well that need a doctor but the sick." The righteous do not need a Savior but sinners do. So Jesus came looking for sinners. It was not and is not hard to find sinners. Sinners are everywhere. Look no farther than your own heart if you doubt that. Jesus' "lot" is full of people whose lives have been smashed and broken by sin. His business is broken, ruined, wrecked lives. He takes wrecks and He restores them. God takes those whose lives have been tarnished and defaced by sin and He transforms them into the likeness of His own Son, Jesus. He takes ragamuffins like you and says that when He is finished you will look like Jesus. You will be completely transformed. The last trace of sin will be washed away and you will be pure, clean and holy. You will be like Jesus. That is hard to imagine but it is what scripture promises. The apostle John wrote, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him...." (1 John 3:2)

We will be like Jesus. That is an amazing promise. In fact, it sounds almost too good to be true. Can you imagine that sinners will someday be like Jesus? As hard as it might be to believe, it is the promise of scripture. God will not ignore sin. He will not merely hide sin. God's plan is to transform sinners. God does not paint over our transgressions. Instead, the One who made us will recreate us. 1 Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Followers of Jesus are not what they used to be. Followers of Jesus are new creations. God works a complete transformation in lives of those who come to Jesus.

The word translated "transformed" in 2 Corinthians 3:18 comes from the Greek word μεταμορφομαῖ. Our English word, metamorphosis, comes from that Greek root word. In biology, we use it to describe the change in form of a tadpole to a frog, or a caterpillar to butterfly. It is major change, a trans-**form**-a-tion: the change from one form to another. God transforms sinners. He wants to bring sinners into His presence not as they were but as they are meant to be. The process of transformation begins the day sinners kneel at Jesus' feet and will continue until Jesus returns to take those who belong to Him home.

Each day, God makes us a little more like Jesus, if we allow Him to do so. Each day, His glory shines more brightly from those who follow Him. Each day, we become more what we were meant to be. "Not that we have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but we press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of us." (Philippians 3:12) We are not there yet but someday we will be all God created us to be. These lives of ours that were twisted and corrupted by sin will be made brand new. We will be transformed into Christ's likeness and we will radiate His glory. God has started the work in us and He will carry it on to completion. We were made in God's image and likeness. (Genesis 1:26-27) We were created to reflect God's glory. When God is finished with us, we will be what He meant us to be. Our wrecked lives will be brand new. The glory of Christ will shine through us.

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**April 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- April 2 — Wednesday Program – 5:45pm Meal and 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
- April 4-5 — [Minnesota Christian Convention](#) at Rochester, MN
- April 5 — Donate clothing for April 19 distribution – take to church Rooms 2 & 3 starting 9:00am
- April 6 — [Lifeline of Hope](#) - Orphan Presentation during 9:00am Sunday School time  
for high school and adult Sunday Bible classes
- April 8 — Dorcas Fellowship at church – 1:30pm
- April 8 — Board Meeting – 7:30pm; David K will host
- April 10 — Bible Study at Centennial Plaza in Le Center – 6:30pm
- April 11 — Game Night for Adults at 6:30pm – bring snacks to share
- April 12 — Donate clothing for April 19 distribution – take to church Rooms 2 & 3 starting 9:00am
- April 13 — Monthly Building Fund Offering
- April 16 — Wednesday Program – 5:45pm Meal and 6:30pm Adult Bible Study
- April 17 — Ladies Nite Out at Baker's Square in Mankato – 6:00pm
- April 17 — Bible Study at Centennial Plaza in Le Center – 6:30pm
- April 19 — Free Clothing Distribution at church from 9:00am–Noon
- April 21 — Church Elders' Meeting at church – 7:30pm
- April 25 — Nursing Home Worship Service, Central Health Care, Le Center, MN – 11:00am
- April 25 — Crossroads College's Dream Banquet at the Rochester International Event Center
- Apr 25-27 — Christian Student Fellowship using our building for their annual retreat
- April 26 — Dress Rehearsal for Children's Musical & pizza – 4:00-6:30pm
- April 27 — Church Children Musical ***Down by the Creek Bank*** during 9:00am Sunday School time
- April 30 — Wednesday Program – 5:45pm Meal and 6:30pm Adult Bible Study

**COMING LATER THIS YEAR**

- June 15-19 — Vacation Bible School at church in the evenings
- October 11-19 — New Orleans Mission Trip

The **MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN CONVENTION** will be held April 4-5 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. The **MCC** is an annual gathering of Christians from the Midwest for fellowship, inspiration, and glorifying God. Its purpose is to build up Christians and churches through Bible teaching and to lift up Christ in worship. There are concurrent programs for all ages - infants through adults. Check the bulletin board or the conventions website [www.mnconvention.org](http://www.mnconvention.org) for details of the convention.

**MISSION PRESENTATION** We are excited to have Larry and Sharon Bertram present the work of **Lifeline of Hope** with us Sunday, April 6, at 9:00am. [Lifeline of Hope \(www.lifelineofhope.org\)](http://www.lifelineofhope.org) is a rapidly growing ministry that is presently assisting almost 20,000 children in over 200 orphanages in eleven different countries through the generous gifts of Christians across the USA. Additionally, in this rapidly expanding outreach to orphans, over 100 more orphanages have been approved and are waiting for funding. There are literally millions more orphan children who have no one to help them. Our vision is to reach out to as many as we can with the love and compassion of Christ. High School and adult classes will meet together to hear about this important ministry.

**BUILDING OFFERING** will be received on Sunday, April 13. In February, \$5,045.00 was given to the building fund. As of March 1, \$352,752.95 remained to be paid on the building loan.

**COLOSSAL! GIGANTIC! GARGANTUAN! FREE!  
CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 9:00am to Noon**

Clothing for infants through adults will be available to anyone who can use them.  
Pass the word to anyone who could benefit from this event.

The church building will be open Saturday, April 5 and April 12 at 9:00am to receive contributions for the upcoming clothing distribution. Please donate clean, gently used clothing to give to friends and neighbors in the surrounding area. Please bring clothing to classrooms #2 or #3. Donations of grocery bags are also welcome. Contact Pam A or Mary H if you would like to help sort and display clothing.

You are invited to **CROSSROAD COLLEGE'S DREAM BANQUET 2008** on Friday, April 25, at the Rochester International Event Center. The **Dream Banquet** is Crossroad College's premiere annual funding raising event. Guest speaker at this year's event is Gene Appel. Gene has ministered with Central Christian Church in Las Vegas and recently with Willow Creek Church in Chicago. The evening schedule is registration at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00pm, program at 8:00pm. No tickets will be sold at the door. You must pre-register by calling Sharon Moreland at 800.456.7651 or email [smoreland@crossroadscollege.edu](mailto:smoreland@crossroadscollege.edu).

**DOWN BY THE CREEK BANK**, a musical presentation by the young people of our congregation, will be presented Sunday, April 27 at 9:00am. (Note the change in date from last month's newsletter.) Please set this date aside and be prepared to be blessed by some very talented young people. Practices will be held each Sunday in April from 9:00-10:00am. The final dress rehearsal will be held 4:00pm on Saturday, April 26. Pizza will be served to the participants at 5:00pm and rehearsal will be done by 6:30pm. Come and support these kids (and a special adult performer) who have been working hard since last September!

**VBS 2008: VEGGIE TALES RETURNS** Who can forget the lovable Bob the Tomato and slightly off-key Larry the Cucumber? Vacation Bible School this summer will feature a whole new gang of fun-loving, but rather lazy veggie characters in "The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything." With video clips from the feature length film, we will learn right along with the pirates how God can make heroes out of all of us.

The VBS dates are scheduled for Sunday, June 15 –Thursday, June 19. We will run in the evenings from 6:00 – 8:30 on Sunday and 6:30 - 8:30 all the other nights. Registrations both in the church and online will be available by May 1<sup>st</sup>, so watch for them, and be sure to invite some friends.

Volunteers are needed in many capacities to make this ministry a success. If you are unavailable during VBS, we could use your help before with decorating. If you are available during all, or even part of that week, we have opportunities to help with music, teaching, crafts and in the kitchen. Talk to Connie P if you are willing to share your gifts.

#### **THANK YOU'S**

- I want to thank you again for allowing me to speak to your congregation on behalf of the Gideons. We truly appreciate the generous offering that was given to the Gideon work. 100% will be used in the purchase of scriptures. Thanks again, Steve L
- Dear friends,  
Thank you for your cards and for your many, many warm thoughts and prayers over the last few months. I feel so blessed to be part of such a loving church family. God's Blessings, Jolene C
- Thank you to all who helped make the Easter season special this year – musicians, those who decorated, provided food, prepared communion, worked in the nursery, and especially those who invited friends,

#### **ORPHANED DISHES**

If you are missing a bowl or cake pan, check the kitchen pantry area for your orphaned dishes.

**EARLY BIRD YOUTH REGISTRATION FOR PINE HAVEN IS MAY 1.** Register by then and save \$10.

#### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

- The 7-12 grade youth group raised over \$895.21 at their annual fundraiser. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

- Ryan and Kristi (S) B are proud parents of a baby girl born Friday, February 29. Her name is Annabelle Marie. Ken and Sandy S are grandparents and Darlene S is her great-grandmother.
- We recently receive a gift in memory of Willard and Merle Forsyth, Marilyn F's aunt and uncle.
- We had a great workday at the church, March 8. Thanks to Ken and Lislie D, Roger S, Gregg G, Sandy K, Betty L, Steve H, Graydon D, Russ and Judy L, Orbbe C, and David K for helping.
- We recently purchased 30 new large print Bibles with undesignated memorial money.
- The Cleveland area Cub Scouts collected over 800 pounds of food for the Cleveland Food Shelf Saturday March 15. Thanks Cub Scouts and all who contributed food.

**SNACKS are needed** for the Sunday 10:00am Fellowship Time. Bring 8-10 dozen snack items. Coffee will be made. Volunteers are responsible for setting up, serving and cleaning up on your service day.

**CASSETTE TAPES** of the worship service are available upon request. **PRINTED COPIES** of each Sunday's sermon are also available. Contact David K if you are interested in a copy of the sermon. You may also receive a copy of the sermon each week via **EMAIL**. Send your request to [office@clevelandchurch.net](mailto:office@clevelandchurch.net).

**PRAYER** is an important ministry of the church. We have many people who are willing to pray for you if a special need arise. To activate our prayer chain, call David K at the church office (507) 931-5924, or the parsonage at (507) 931-4044, or (507) 380-1985, with your request. If you are unable to reach David, please call Carrie M at (507) 357-6296 (h) or (507) 357-6444 (w) or (507) 261-0279 (c).

**BIRTHDAYS:** April 2 - Donna P; 4 - Caleb D; 5 - Calissa G; 6 - Tony D, Sherm R; 7 - Jenni S; 8 -Carter P; 13 - Kim W; 14 - Patty A; 16 - Jeff J; 18 - Gab S, Glory S; 19 - Dan C, Ryan N; 23 - Brianna C; 25 - Larry F, Brandon K; 28 - Jim S; 29 - Kelly E, Tanner S; 31 - Emily P

**ANNIVERSARIES:** April 7 - Graydon & Ellen D; 16 - Tim & Amy E; 23 - David & Sheila P

#### SERVING LIST

A PDF file of our April–July 2008 Serving List Chart may be downloaded from [www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net). See "Resources," then click "PDF Downloads."

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#### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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David Kester, Minister

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#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00am – Bible Classes for all ages

10:00am – Fellowship Time

10:30am – Worship Service

Office Phone: (507) 931-5924

Parsonage Phone: (507) 931-4044

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If you wish to no longer receive our email newsletters **or** to update your email address, please reply to this address: [newsletter@clevelandchurch.net](mailto:newsletter@clevelandchurch.net)

If you wish to email our minister and / or the church office use: [office@clevelandchurch.net](mailto:office@clevelandchurch.net)

Thank you, Church of Christ meeting at Cleveland, Minnesota, USA