

# CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

MARCH 2012  
Vol.30 No.03



## Looking Past the Stain

By John Kester, Pastor

In his small group study entitled “Not a Fan,” Kyle Idleman tells a story about something that happened in his home. One day his wife was cleaning in the living room and she turned over the couch cushions. What she discovered was a shock to her. On the bottom side of the cushion was a large, pink, nail-polish stain. Kyle and his wife collected their three daughters and brought them into the room where they were planning on interrogating them. But before they could even begin to ask questions their middle daughter Morgan broke. She rushed from the room and dashed up the stairs. Kyle said he followed her into her room where he found her in the corner of her closet sobbing with her head between her knees. He rubbed her back and helped her get under control and then took her back downstairs. As they sat together in the room with the nail-polish stained couch little Morgan asked in a fear-filled voice, “Do you still love me?” Kyle’s wife got down on the floor next to her daughter and said, “Honey, there is no stain in the world big enough to ever make us stop loving you.”

From that point on, a change took place in Morgan. Instead of trying to hide what she had done, she now began to share the story of the stained couch. When people would come to the Idleman house, Morgan would take them into the living room and show them the stain she had made. It was as if this stained couch had become a symbol of her parents love for her. In spite of what she had done they still loved her. She reveled in this truth.

As we approach Easter this year, Morgan’s story tugs at my heart. Every one of us is a bit like Morgan. We have created stains that we hope no one will ever see. We spend our days trying to hide the things that we have done that we know are wrong. Our sins of pride and anger and falsehood and unrestrained desires lurk in the background and we do everything we can do to try to cover up our past sin. And instead of admitting who we really are and what we have really done, we try to pretend that we are good and that our stains don’t exist. Somehow we think God will love us more if He doesn’t see our stains.

We fail to realize that God loves us even more than Morgan’s parents love her. We fail to recognize that God already knows about all of our stains – and somehow He loves us anyway. All we have to do is look at the cross. With His outstretched arms Jesus says, ‘You want to know how much I love you? I love you this much.’

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
(John 3:16)**

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

900 State Highway 99 (507) 931-5924  
PO Box 307 clchurch@live.com  
Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Lisa Koppelman

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for Adults June-August  
10:00 am – Fellowship Time  
10:30 am – Worship Service including Junior Church

Link to prior monthly newsletters  
for the Cleveland Church of Christ

[http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1\\_212](http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 2012

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates more info is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- March 3 – Men's Fellowship\*
- March 4 – Choir Practice
- March 4 – Fellowship Potluck with a Purpose\*
- March 11 – Daylight Savings Time begins\*
- March 11 – Monthly Building Offering
- March 11 – Elders meeting\*
- March 13 – Dorcas Fellowship\*
- March 13 – Church Board Meeting\*
- March 14 – Bible Study at 6:30pm\*
- March 17 – Men's Fellowship\*
- March 18 – Family Movie Event\*
- March 21 – Bible Study at 6:30pm\*
- March 22 – April newsletter articles due
- March 24-25 – 30 Hour Famine\*
- March 25 – Pancake Breakfast\*
- March 28 – Prayer Meeting\*

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

- April 1 – Palm Sunday
- April 6 – Good Friday
- April 8 – Easter Sunday
- April 13-14 – Minnesota Christian Convention at Eden Prairie, MN\*
- April 14 – KJLY Women's Seminar at Hillside Church, Mankato, MN  
[www.kjly.com/beloved.php](http://www.kjly.com/beloved.php)
- April 21 – Casting Crowns concert at Target Center  
[www.castingcrowns.com](http://www.castingcrowns.com)
- May 3 – National Day of Prayer for America
- May 4 – Crossroads College Dream Banquet, Rochester, MN
- May 14-17 – Crossroads College Prime Timers on Campus, Rochester, MN  
- Jon Grice, speaker
- May 18 – Set up for FREE Clothing Distribution
- May 19 – FREE Clothing Distribution at church
- July 15 – MN Teen Challenge presentation
- July 29 – Family Picnic & Fun Day at Duck Lake County Park near Madison Lake
- Aug 5-9 – Vacation Bible School

### ELDERS MEETING

The Elders will meet on Sunday, March 11 following the morning worship service.

### DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The Dorcas Ladies Fellowship will resume on Tuesday, March 13 at 1:30pm at the church. All ladies welcome. Welcome Back Everyone!

### CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Members of the Church Board will meet on Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30pm at the church.

### LADIES NIGHT OUT

On Thursday, March 15 at 6:00pm the ladies will be meeting at Tucker's Inn in Elysian.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men of the congregation will meet the first and third Saturday of each month at 7:30am at the church for food, fellowship, and encouragement. The dates are set for March 3rd & 17th. Invite your friends to come with you.

### POTLUCK WITH A PURPOSE

Join us for the first Potluck with a Purpose in 2012 Sunday, March 4. March is Food Shelf month and we ask that you consider families in need and bring non-perishable food items for the Cleveland food shelf. Donations will be accepted at any time, but let's overflow the donation box on Sunday, March 4. Teach your children about sharing and let them choose items for donations and put them in the box. Your family can help children who might have to go to bed hungry without food shelf donations.



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. In order to be on time for worship service, set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening, March 10.

### MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Gather with us on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30pm to find out how to go from fan to follower. In March, the study will be on the 14th & 21st. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus. [www.notafan.com](http://www.notafan.com)



### PRAYER MEETING

Join us as we gather and approach God together in prayer on Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30pm.

### DID YOU KNOW...

- An offering was giving to the Gideons in the amount of \$473.
- 115 soup items, as well as several other food products were donated to area food shelves at our 1st ever Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Over 50 people attended our Valentine's Party.



Congratulations to Grant Den Herder on his confession of faith and baptism into Jesus. Grant was baptised on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Pray for his growth in Christ.

## FAMILY MOVIE EVENT

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 18 at 4:00 pm

**WHERE:** Cleveland Church of Christ

**COST:** FREE for everyone!



Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes, David Thomson, and Shane Fuller are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children?

Protecting the streets is second nature to these men. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous.

### 30 HOUR FAMINE



Our annual 7th-12th grader Youth fundraising event for world hunger has been scheduled for March 24-25. Youth are encouraged to contact John Kester for fundraising packets and other schedule information. Adults, if one of our young people asks for your support,

please consider encouraging them with a generous gift to help fight hunger. Our goal is to raise \$1000 this year between youth fundraising efforts and their pancake breakfast at church on Sunday morning, March 25th.

### CHRISTIAN RADIO



Christian Radio can be a source of encouragement and inspiration, and we're fortunate to be in the listening area of two nearby stations. If you like to hear the latest in contemporary Christian music, tune in to 98.5 FM / KTIS (Mpls). If you like a variety of music and programming 104.5 FM / KJLY (Blue Earth) might appeal to you. KJLY features Chuck Swindoll's "Insight for Living," "Family Talk" with Dr. James Dobson, Janet Parshall's "In the Market Place" and many other programs. Kids (of all ages) will love Focus on the Family's "Adventures in Odyssey" heard weekday evenings at 6:00pm and Saturday mornings at 9:00am. Christian Radio has something for everyone, and if you've never tuned in, give it a try – we think you'll like it!

## Minnesota Christian Convention

April 13-14, 2012

Grace Church

Eden Prairie, MN



Marvin Phillips, featured speaker.  
Worship led by Chad Bahr & worship team Shadow Vox.

[www.mnconvention.org](http://www.mnconvention.org)

## PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 2012 CAMP SCHEDULE

[www.pinehavencamp.org](http://www.pinehavencamp.org)

Based on grades going into Fall 2012  
Cleveland is in Zone A

May 10-12	Work Weekend
May 25-28	Fishing Weekend
June 10-16	9th & 10th Grades Zone A
June 17-23	11th & 12th Grades
June 24-27	4th Grade
June 29-July 1	Ladies Retreat
July 1-6	Family Weekend
July 8-13	5th & 6th Grades Zone A
July 13-15	Adult Weekend
July 22-28	7th & 8th Grades Zone A
Aug 9-12	Family Weekend
Aug 17-19	Motorcycle Weekend
Aug 31-Sept 3	Last Chance Camp
Sept 6-9	Scrapbook 1
Sept 9-11	Ministry Leadership Retreat
Sept 13-16	Scrapbook 2

**It's not too early to be thinking about camp!**



**BIRTHDAYS:** March 2–Sage Anderson, Darlene Schmidt; 4–Aaron Rogers; 5–Tom Engelrup, Maggie Sveback; 10–Frank Heldberg; 11–Iris Krenik; 12–Joshua Nyamutora (son of missionary in Zimbabwe); 14–Jordan Phillips; 15–Dayton Hale, 15–Babu Samuel (missionary in India); 16–Wendy Eckert, Kaylin Schmidt, Claudia Theis; 18–Helen Boldthen; 19–Mercy Samuel (daughter of missionary in India); 20–Liz Rogers; 24–Neysa Schettler; 26–Bob Potter; 28–Jordan Gish; 29–Elsa Ely; 30–Kole Schmidt, Mildred Wakefield

**ANNIVERSARIES:** March 10–Lowen & Dorothy Richter; 13–Lance & Janice Fahning; 17–Gary & Nancy Kunz; 18–Dan & Jolene Christensen