

CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN CLEVELAND, MN

February 2013
Vol. 31 No.2



BY FAITH

By John Kester, Pastor

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

If someone were to ask me what it takes to please God a bunch of different answers would circulate through my head. My initial reaction is to say that obedience pleases God. He wants us to do what He asks of us. Almost as soon as those words were on the page I thought to myself, "But what about love? Isn't love the most important thing?" Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love God and the second was like it – to love your neighbor as yourself. Maybe it takes love to please God. Or maybe the answer is self-denial. Let a man take up his cross and follow Me. Maybe it is about service. If you want to be great you must be the servant of all. There are a lot of really good answers to the question what does it take to please God.

The writer of Hebrews offers a different idea. He says without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is essential if we want to be in proper relationship to God. But faith is hard. It requires us to accept things that we cannot see. It compels us to live our lives based on things that we cannot prove beyond a shadow of a doubt. It demands that we trust God even when that seems to make no sense.

The writer of Hebrews uses the phrase "by faith" at least 20 times in Hebrews 11 to describe how the heroes of old lived their lives. They were able to accomplish remarkable things and they were able to see the hand of God in their lives because they lived by faith and not by sight. They trusted God and then just forged ahead depending on Him to do what He promised He would do.

This year I want to focus our congregation on faith in God. It is important that we recognize the object of our faith is God. Faith is not effective because we have it in great measure, but faith works because the one we have faith in is able to do anything He wants to do. When we come to the end of 2013, I want to be able to look back and ask how in the world did we do that, and have everyone say without a thought, it was by faith.

I hope this year is a year we learn to live by faith as we never have before. I hope we please God in ways we never have before because we live our lives individually and as a congregation by faith in The One who made us and redeemed us and loves us. May we live by faith.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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PO Box 307 clchurch@live.com
Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for Kindergarten-Adults
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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2013

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- Feb 2 – Men’s Fellowship at 7:30am
- Feb 3 – Super Bowl at Christensen’s*
- Feb 10 – Monthly Building Offering
- Feb 10 – Valentine Party & Movie*
- Feb 12 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm*
- Feb 12 – Church Board meeting at 7:30pm*
- Feb 13 – Bible Study at 6:30pm*
- Feb 20 – Bible Study at 6:30pm*
- Feb 21 – March newsletter articles due
- Feb 21 – Ladies Night Out at Little Dandy*

COMING IN MARCH 2013

- Mar 2 – Men’s Fellowship at 7:30am
- Mar 10 – Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 10 – Crossroads College Day at church and Fellowship / Potluck meal
- Mar 10 – Monthly Building Offering
- Mar 12 – Church Board meeting
- Mar 24 – Palm Sunday
- Mar 31 – Easter Sunday

BIRTHDAYS: February 2- Carrie Reid; 8- Anna Dickie, Katrina Duciaume, Olivia Kester, John Sprague, Marvin Tolzmann; 12-Mabel Potter; 14-Julie Dittrich; 15- Rich Kern; 27- Glenn Schmidt; 28- Steve Den Herder, Austin Goettlicher, Martha Nyamutora (missionary wife in Zimbabwe)

ANNIVERSARIES: February 11- Tom & Nancy Sheimo; 20- Steve & Mary Den Herder



OUR WINTER STORM POLICY



The Cleveland Church of Christ services will be held in spite of inclement weather. We ask that people use their best judgment about coming to services if the weather is not good.

A “WATCH THE BIG GAME” PARTY



Dan and Jolene Christensen will be hosting a party to watch the annual nationally televised football season finale “BIG GAME” at their home on Sunday, February 3. The gathering will begin at 5:00pm. Enjoy food and fellowship. Please bring food items to share. Sandwiches and sodas will be provided.

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Men’s Fellowship meets the first Saturday of every month only. Men, plan to come for time of fellowship and coffee on Saturday, February 2nd at 7:30am at the church.

DORCAS FELLOWSHIP

The Dorcas Fellowship will meet Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30pm at the church. All women are welcome!

CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Church Board members will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:30pm.



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

We’ll meet on Wednesdays February 13 and 20 at 6:30pm at the church. We are studying the Bible book of 1 Peter chapter 2.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The Ladies will meet at the Little Dandy east of Le Center on Thursday, February 21 at 5:00pm.



VALENTINE PARTY & MOVIE

You and your family are invited on Sunday, February 10 to February’s fellowship and family fun activity at the church at 3:00pm. Enjoy pie and ice cream and create Valentines. Bring your favorite pie to share. Ice cream will be provided. Supplies will be available to make Valentines to send to shut-ins.

Following the Valentine party the movie *Amazing Love: The Story of Hosea* will be shown.

Four teenaged friends go on a weekend camping trip led by their church youth group leader and his wife. A fifth teenager who is not part of their circle comes along for the weekend too. There is ensuing conflict among the teens and the group leader attempts to calm the rift by telling them a true story of forgiveness, commitment, and love.



Awarded the Dove Family Seal of Approval (5 out of 5 Doves).



TRUSTING THE WORD BROADCAST



David Crow of our Cleveland church family is the preacher on the radio broadcast program "Trusting the Word." Broadcasts and broadcast scripts of can be heard and viewed on the ministry website at www.trustingtheword.org.

Currently "Trusting the Word" can be heard on Sundays on KLNG of Omaha, NE and WYYC of York, PA. The program broadcast is done in Minnesota. Editing and uploading to the website is done in South Dakota by Sam Crow, David's son. Christian Talk Radio Network headquarters is in South Carolina with 19 radio stations having segments in at least 20 states with a potential listener count of over 18 million people.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Pam Aanas, long time congregation member, retired after 34 years from the Le Sueur County Extension office.
- At our annual meeting, Orbbe Chadderdon was elected as deacon and trustee, and Jo Rupe was elected as church treasurer.
- Plans are being made for our annual 30 Hour Youth Famine on March 16 & 17.
- Our annual Crossroads College Day at our church will on March 10 along with guest speaker Dr. Mark Weedman and musical group Adoration. A fellowship / potluck meal will follow the worship service.
- Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for June 16 & 17, 2013.
- On March 10 marks the beginning of Daylight Savings. Spring ahead one hour.



PINE HAVEN CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 2013 CAMP SCHEDULE

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Based on grades going into | Fall 2013 / Cleveland is in Zone A |
| May 9-11 | Work Weekend |
| May 24-27 | Fishing Weekend |
| June 9-12 | 4th Grade |
| June 14-16 | Ladies Retreat |
| June 16-22 | 11th & 12th Grade |
| June 23-28 | 5th & 6th Grade (Zone A) |
| June 28-30 | Adult Weekend |
| Jun 30-Jul 5 | Family Week |
| July 14-20 | 9th & 10th Grade (Zones A & B) |
| July 21-27 | 7th & 8th Grade (Zone A) |
| Aug 3-5 | MAN UP (30 camper limit) |
| Aug 8-11 | Family Weekend |
| Aug 16-18 | Motorcycle Weekend |
| Aug 18-20 | Leadership Retreat |
| Aug 30-Sept 2 | Last Chance Camp |
| Sept 5-8 | Scrapbook Weekend |



2012 NOLA MISSION TRIP REPORT

Eleven members and friends of our congregation took the bus to New Orleans in October 2012 for a 10 day trip to build new homes for Hurricane Katrina victims. Yes, it has been 7 years since that terrible storm that changed New Orleans forever; and yes, the re-building is still in progress, and people still come from all over the

Our congregation was represented by Pam Aanas and grandson Zach Christle, Graydon Dickie and daughter Laura Dickie, Gary & Nancy Kunz and daughter Jenny Doering and grandson Brian Doering, Judy Lloyd and son David Lloyd, and Judy Lloyd's friend Therese. Altogether there were 44 workers who hopped on board for the 22 hour bus trip to New Orleans and we each made it back home in one piece.

Work Day Monday found us splitting into two groups to help fix up Hurricane Isaac (August 28, 2012) damage. One group replaced doors in the lower level of the Elysian Fields Church of Christ (acapella) where we have worshiped for the past 3 years. Our larger group got back on the bus for a 45 minute ride to a horse ranch in Orange Grove east of New Orleans. There we "mudded out" the house of a NOLA fire department member. We helped Captain Steve clean, repair and rewire his stable. There too we ate our bag lunch under an ancient mossy oak tree and heard Captain Steve's story of the 12-foot storm surge of water. The storm washed away 2,000 orange trees and left mud from the gulf in his second story bedrooms. More than 30 cattle disappeared and his horses survived only because he took them to his friend's place when he left for work that day. His wife and children rode out the storm in New Orleans. Later we learned Captain Steve was part of the NOLA fire department relief group that went to help the Hurricane Sandy (October 29, 2012) victims in New York. Talk about paying it forward! That was just the first day.

Work days Tuesday – Friday found us split into 4 main groups. Three groups worked building new houses with Habitat for Humanity. We are getting experienced enough that they even let us use nail guns now. There was lots of ladder work this year. Our fourth group spent 4 days at St. Bernard's Community Center, organizing their food shelf supplies and helping with food distribution days, and general clean-up of the grounds. Hearing the stories of the ordinary neighborhood people who work every day to recover from the destruction of two hurricanes and hold their families together makes it all worthwhile for us. We are truly blessed to serve and learn.

Written by Judy Lloyd