

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 2015

All events are at the church building  
Unless otherwise noted.

\* Indicates an article is elsewhere  
in this newsletter.

- August 11 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- August 11 – Church Board Meeting at 7:30pm
- August 14-15 – Art of Marriage Conference\*
- August 16 – Church picnic\*
- August 20 – September Newsletter articles due
- August 24-31 – Pastor Kester on vacation

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

- September 7 – Labor Day (USA)
- September 13 – Friend Day\*



Our sympathy to the family of George Schmidt. George, of the Cleveland community and lifelong member of our church, died on July 13, 2015 at the age of 87.

His funeral was held here at the church on Friday, July 17. Please continue to keep their family in your prayers.



**MISSING** – The Beth Moore Bible Study box containing the study material (leader's guide, DVDs, etc.) for the study on "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" –

based on the building of the Old Testament tabernacle is missing. Please return to the church office if you have it. Thank you!



**OCTOBER 11** – MN Adult and Teen Challenge Choir will be with us to share songs and testimony of God's power to change lives.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

August is a great time to buy school supplies on sale for shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Learn about OCC, its mission and how to fill and pack a shoebox at [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ). Our Cleveland church family is looking forward to our 16th year of packing shoes boxes for needy children around the world.

There are only about 2 weeks remaining before our Art of Marriage Conference. It is not too late to sign up for this outstanding event. Please consider couples you know who might enjoy this marriage tune up and offer them a personal invitation to be part of this important conference. We are excited about what God can do through this event if we allow him to work in our lives.

the art of   
**marriage**<sup>®</sup>  
a six-session video event

**Friday – Saturday**  
**August 14-15**

Friday 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm  
Saturday 9:30 am - 3:30 pm  
at  
Cleveland Church of Christ  
900 State Hwy 99  
Cleveland, MN, 56017

Join us for this entertaining, sincere, faith-based six session DVD event lead by local couples. You will find a wide range of ages, faiths, backgrounds and experiences. You do not have to be a church attendee to come to this event. Newly engaged couples welcome. Singles are welcome. *EVERYONE* and *ANYONE* are welcome!

Registration fees are \$20 per single / \$40 per couple which includes course materials, refreshments, snacks and Saturday lunch. Payment is due with registration. Advance registration is required by noon Monday, August 11, 2015.

Visit [www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net) to learn more about this conference and see registration options.

*Fall in love all over again...  
At any age or stage...*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PRAISES!



Well, what can we say but "Thank you, LORD!" for blessing this year's VBS with kids galore and staff a-more! We had 36 different children attend VBS with the average nightly attendance of 28. 20 children attended all five nights! Special kudos to those

parents and grandparents who welcomed in their generations to VBS – we had 15 grandchildren and 5 children of our church family attend. Staff numbers were great too – 29 different people served during VBS and 26 others served either before VBS or provided food for snack time. That's 55 people who helped make VBS a fulfilling experience for the children. Thank you everyone! Each night presented some awesome learning experiences for the children and for the staff. We are humbled God has allowed us to share in His work in Cleveland. Pray also that He continues to work in each of our hearts so that we are willing to do as He asks in all our days ahead.



## CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY PICNIC & FUN DAY



On August 16 we will be holding our annual church picnic. This year we are going to stay at the church and share a meal on the grill together. We encourage people to bring meat to grill for your family and a dish to share as well. Following the worship service we will fire up the grills and have a delicious meal together. We would also

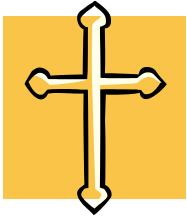
like to encourage all who are interested to stay and spend some time playing games together in the afternoon. The opportunity to laugh and play and talk together is one of the privileges of being part of a church family. I hope you will plan to be part of our annual picnic on August 16.

## FRIEND DAY

One of the most anticipated days of the year at the Cleveland Church of Christ is the day we call Friend Day. On Friend Day we make a special effort to invite our friends, family, and neighbors to join us for a day of worship and celebration. I love this day because it reminds us of what we can do when we combine our efforts and undertake something bigger than any one of us could do alone. So many people work to make the day a success. From those who serve in the kitchen to those who prepare food, from those who share as part of the worship service to those who help set up the worship space, from those who send out dozens of invitations to those who pray for God's blessing on the day, scores of people are involved in helping make this day a success. If you have not yet been invited to attend Friend Day this year, I hope you will accept this article as your invitation to join us for Friend Day on September 13.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The next ladies Bible study will start on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M and will run for 11 weeks (last class November 18<sup>th</sup>). We will be doing the Beth Moore Bible Study "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit" as presented in the book of Galatians. Beth walks participants through each trait listed and encourages women to know the freedom of a Spirit-filled life. Participants will look at the supernatural aspects of the fruit and that you cannot grow, learn or produce the fruit on your own. Beth challenges you to develop the fruit by maintaining an intimate relationship with the Spirit of God. A Spirit-filled life truly results in living beyond yourself. Cost for the member book is \$18 payable at the first class. There is a sign-up sheet on the foyer table.



CHURCH OF CHRIST  
900 State Highway 99  
PO Box 307  
Cleveland, MN 56017

#### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. – Bible Class – 4yrs-Adult  
10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Time  
10:30 a.m. – Worship Service

Church Website: [www.clevelandchurch.net](http://www.clevelandchurch.net)  
Office Phone: (507) 931-5924  
Office Email: [clchurch@live.com](mailto:clchurch@live.com)  
Prayer Chain: [clchurchprayer@live.com](mailto:clchurchprayer@live.com)

**OUR HEAD:** Jesus Christ

**PASTOR:** John Kester

**CHURCH SECRETARY:** Lisa Koppelman

**BIRTHDAYS:** August 4- Max Miller; 5- Roxanne Goodrich; 6- Mel Lloyd; 7- David Rupe; 10- Marilyn Fahning; 11- Brian Schmidt; 12- Judy Lloyd, Andrea Schmidt; 16- Gladis Samuel (missionary daughter in India), Alice Will; 17- Lowen Richter; 18- Shane Rogers; 19- Orbbe Chadderdon, Charlie Zalusky; 23- Bev Hesch; 25- Karen Rogers; 26- Wayne Fahning, Gary Guentzel; 30- Jaci Christensen, Jim Rogers; 31- Jim Ely, Mandy Filter, Mattie Glancy, Jarod Schmidt

**ANNIVERSARIES:** August 10- Mel & Monie Lloyd; 13- Fanny & Martha Nyamutora (missionaries in Zimbabwe); 18- Kevin & Karen Gibbs; 22- Patti & Bruce Zuelch; 24- Orbbe & Joyce Chadderdon; 25- Clint & Helen Godden; 27- Glenn & Cindy Schmidt, Doug & Annette Swedberg





## **A Heart of Compassion**

*By John Kester*

I recently read an article written by Mother Theresa, the Catholic nun who founded the Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, India. In this article she wrote these profound words: “the biggest disease today is not leprosy or cancer or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everyone.” What Mother Theresa was suggesting is that there is such a huge absence of compassion in our world that people suffer greatly because they feel like no one cares for them.

I don't want to believe this is true. I want to believe that because Christians model the love and compassion they have received from God that there will be few people who are left feeling alone and rejected and uncared for. But I experience a different reality in the world around me. I encounter people who have simple, small needs in their lives and there is no one they can turn to for help. Strangers come to me and ask for help because they do not have anyone in their life that cares enough about their well-being to help them out.

I wish I could claim the high moral ground and tell you to do what I do, but I am no better than most people. Seldom do I search out people who have needs to help them. I am willing to respond when someone makes a need known to me. But I am not so good at looking for opportunities to act with kindness and compassion. If I am entirely honest with you, there are days and weeks that go by without me ever being moved with compassion for someone who is hurting. Seldom does my heart break for people who are suffering from a lack of material possessions. Seldom do I mourn for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Seldom do I think to reach out to a person who is lonely and feeling abandoned. Seldom am I moved with compassion for those who feel like they are outcasts in our world.

I wonder what it would look like if we began to live lives of true compassion in the church. What might I do for the lady who is trying to figure out how to live after the death of her husband? What could I do for the person who is trying to figure out how to care for an aging spouse with failing health? What could I do for the man who is about to have his electricity turned off because he lacks \$40? What could I do for the family who has a child that experiences violent outbursts? What can I do for the aging widow who spends most of her time alone? What can I do for the couple who is struggling with their marriage? You see all of these are real situations I have encountered in my life. Sometimes I take action and do something that shows compassion and sometimes I sit idly by as if these situations do not matter to me. When I do that I stop being the church to people who need to see the love and compassion of Jesus in me.

Living a life of mercy and compassion is hard work. It forces me to think about others more and myself less. It is, however, what God wants from us. The prophet Micah said, “ he has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy ....” It is good to love mercy. It is good to live a life of compassion. This is what God desires from us. I pray that we will open our eyes to the hurting people around us and treat them with the tender compassion that we have received from God.