



We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 27** – Meal: Sour Cream Chicken Tortillas, Green Beans, Green Salad, Hot Rolls, Dessert
- Oct 4** - Meal: Baked Potatoes, Fritos, Chili, Green Salad, Brownies
- Oct 11** – Meal: Sub Sandwiches, Green Salad, Fruit Salad, Dessert
- Oct 15** – H.O.P.E. Group
- Oct 18** – Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Tomato Soup, Beef Veggie Soup, Dessert
- Oct. 21** – Ladies' Day
- Oct 22** – Garland Girls Service Project: Immediately after church until 2:30 p.m. (Lunch Provided)
- Oct 25** – Meal: Broccoli & Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Dessert
- Oct 29** – 5th Sunday Fellowship and Potluck
- Nov 15** –Meal: Beef Stroganoff, Green Beans, Fresh Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert
- Nov 19** – H.O.P.E. Group

The deadline to register for LTC is October 1st. LTC is the 3rd – 12th grade. If you need more information, please email Jacob Bowman at Jacob02Jay@gmail.com

Order of Worship

Pilgrim's Praise	Chris Taylor
Welcome/Announcements/Song Leader	Glenn Walker
.....	Holy, Holy, Holy
.....	Make Me New
Prayer	TBD
.....	I Am Mine No More
.....	Lead Me to Calvary
Communion Talk	Chris Taylor
.....	It is Well with My Soul
.....	There is a Habitation
.....	Living By Faith
Sermon: Where is God?	Erik Granberg
.....	I'll Live in Glory
Shepherd's Prayer	Terry Sherrill
Nursery	Kim Tinius
Sound Booth/Slides	Trey Johnson

Sermon Scripture:

Esther 1-2

Sermon Thought:

Neither God, nor anything close to faith, is mentioned in the book of Esther. This seems strange while reading a biblical book. Our own lives can seem this way also. We look around and wonder where God is or what he is doing. He can seem so absent. While we go through the book of Esther, we see that God is very much active in the ordinary.

Sermon Questions:

1. When has God felt distant or absent in your life?
2. Why is it easy to get focused on building our own "kingdoms" with us at the center?
3. How is it encouraging to know God is active in the ordinary?

New Prayer Requests:

Terry Gordon – recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

Madison Solis – prayers as she transitions back to work after surgery.

Birthdays:

- 24th.....Casey Elledge
- 25th.....Landis Fuksa
- 26th.....Bill Oldham
-Krese Smith
-Pam Denney
- 27th.....Barbara Holland
- 28th.....Roger Unruh

Anniversaries:

- 27th.....Don & Cheryl Siders
-Brian & Krystal Wright

Next Week's (10/1/23) Servants:

- Song Leader**
- /Welcome:** Robb Mills
- Pilgrim's Praise:** Brett Thornton
- Communion**
- Talk:** Bruce Swart
- Shepherd's Prayer:** Brent Dittmeyer
- Sound Booth/ Slides:** Dudley Darrow
- Nursery:** Reeta Williams
- Greeters For Sept:** Sue Diel
Kassidy Roberts

3 Little Words

Is it not amazing, in our vast vocabulary of words and phrases and books we read and study, that much of life comes down to three little words. "I love you", "It's a boy!", "Congratulations you passed!" These are some of the best words we hear in this life.

Conversely, other phrases really hurt. "You're so mean," "I hate you," "You failed AGAIN!" These words can haunt us for a long time.

It was almost a year ago in October, my wife and I heard the three words no one ever wants to hear. "Cancer." "Invasive." "Aggressive." I still shudder and shake when I think about that early morning call from the doctor. My wife and I were in a state of disbelief. This can't be happening! How? Why? Kathy had taken such good care of herself. She didn't smoke or drink. She had lost weight and maintained a healthy lifestyle. I felt angry with myself for not protecting my wife from this cancer. I'm the medical one in the family. I am supposed to know these things.

Kathy was incredibly calm, however. Very cool, telling me we will get through this. She was right! Within a month, she was having surgery. Within two, her chemotherapy began. Now, she is in remission, the best possible outcome that the doctors told us at the beginning of this journey. From the beginning, this church, you all stepped up, showed up, prayed us up, feed us, and blessed us more than words can say. We saw what the body of Christ can do, and it was and is, incredible.

We had people praying for us from Enid to the Philippines. Friends from college, who we hadn't talked to in years, were praying for us. Wow! The incredible reach and arm of Christ's body is everywhere. People we did business with reached out to tell their story of how they overcame cancer. Their testimony was heart wrenching and uplifting at the same time. Personally, I want to thank those (and there were many) who were bad for me on my bad days. When all I wanted to do was feel sorry for myself, break down, and cry. You had a warm heart, a listening ear, arms to hug, and a shoulder to break down and weep on. Truly there are angels among us, thank you, thank you, thank you!

I was worried about my wife. About so many things, spinning around in my head. But you were there. You were Matthew 6:25-34 for me. Jesus said don't worry. "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" No one knows how this will all end, but we do know we are loved, blessed, and taken care of. We love you.

Brent Dittmeyer