

vbs 2015



VBS Coordinators L-R: Lori Hardman, Erin Kaupp, Kaylene Butikofer

Thanks to Anne Wettstein for VBS photos.

youth groups

Kick-Off Dates

Jr. High Youth Group
Wed, 8/26 @ 6:00 pm

Sr. High Youth Group
Wed, 8/26 @ 7:30 pm



Jr. High at Matthiessen State Park.



Alissa McKinsey is leading the Jr. High girls in studies and get-togethers. In July, they talked about identity.



Sr. High at Christ in Youth (CIY).

Sunday Worship Services

Morning Worship 9 am-10 am
J.A.M. (ages 3 - PreK) every Sunday
K-3 Children's Church; 4-5th grades 1st & 3rd Sundays
Communion served 4th Sunday
Sunday School on summer break

Youth Groups

Special events through the summer
Jr. High: Jordan McKinsey | Seth Floor
Sr. High: Danny Kaupp | Jordan Krone
Pastoral Staff
Andy Huetter, Sr. Pastor
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

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CHRIST COMMUNITY

CHURCH OF GRIDLEY

August 2015

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Dear Church Family,

This past week at VBS, we had 13 different speakers give 18 minute talks about a variety of issues pertaining to the Christian life. Audio for most of the talks are posted on the church Facebook page if you are interested in listening. What follows in this newsletter is an adapted manuscript from the talk *"Smartphone Slavery."*

"... the average smartphone owner spends 2 hours and 57 minutes a day on the smartphone..."

National Public Radio ran a story in February of 2015 stating that the average American smartphone owner spends 2 hours and 57 minutes a day on his or her phone.¹ If you only count the time we're awake, that's almost 1 out of every 5 days spent on our smartphones—and that's not even counting time on tablets or computers.

You may balk at that stat because you are personally more restrained in your phone usage. Or perhaps, you're thinking, *"What's the big deal if I spend three hours a day on the phone? I use my phone all the time to do email, navigation, texting, radio, and reading. What's wrong with that?"*

To be certain, there is nothing inherently wrong with using a smartphone for 2 hours and 57 minutes a day. I'm not hating on smartphones. They have revolutionized the way we live and offer thousands of helpful benefits. But sometimes when we have a good thing, we consume too much without exercising wise restraint. And when we have too much of a good thing, we get sick. I love Oreo blizzards from DQ, but when I have too much of what I love, I end up feeling sluggish and sick.

Smartphone technology is truly amazing, but if we uncritically accept this new technology, without proper boundaries, we will become sick. Much has been written about how the hyper-connectivity of modern life is contributing to soul emptiness and a multitude of other interpersonal problems. For instance, smartphones have become a new medium for the sin nature to manifest itself through vanity, isolation, and sexual immorality.

In 2013, the Oxford Dictionary proclaimed "selfie" the word of the year. Prior to 2013, it seems to me that it was still considered vain and socially embarrassing to take pictures of oneself and share them incessantly. But in the past few years, the tides have turned. Now, snapping a selfie while you are eating breakfast, driving a car, or cleaning your sock drawer has become commonplace. It's not that all selfies are vain, but taken as a whole, the selfie culture we live in is one of shameless vanity.

A second problem of smartphone overuse is that we are becoming increasingly isolated from one another, which negatively affects our

ability to communicate well with others. A 2011 article about the effects of texting in teenagers said, "Actual conversation is becoming a thing of the past."² The same article stated that the digital age is making young people socially awkward, unable to initiate or carry on a conversation, and anxious about talking to others face-to-face without the safety net of a screen in front of them.

A third issue pertaining to the increased usage of smartphones, is what Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, calls "the pornification of a culture."³ In his book, *You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity*, author Francis Chan writes, *"Things are different nowadays. Sin is more accessible and acceptable... When I was a kid, a guy had to let everyone in the store know he was a pervert when he walked to the counter to buy a Playboy magazine. These days, people can look endlessly at pornography on the privacy of their own phones... When I was a kid, a woman would have to flirt with a man face-to-face, in a normal social setting. Once again, there was the shame of people seeing it... Now with Facebook and text messaging, women and men can approach each other in secret to test the waters."*⁴

Without restraint, smartphones can be a medium through which we indulge in vanity, social isolation, and sexual immorality—each of which should give us pause to consider carefully our smartphone use. However, I propose two other, more subtle ways that smartphones can make us sick and enslaved if we fail to exercise wisdom.

Smartphones Can Erase Boundaries That We Need in Our Lives

"God made a physical world full of boundaries."

God made a physical world full of boundaries. He made us finite creatures who can only be in one place at one time. We are limited to a set number of hours in the day. We each only have a limited

amount of time and ability to do what we need to do to stay alive and be productive. We are finite, limited creatures.

Consider the fact that God designed us to conk out and lie down unconscious for almost a third of lives. Every single night we do nothing other than simply be a finite human being in one place, at one time, able to do one thing, which is to recharge through needed sleep. Our need for sleep is a humbling reality of being human. Presidents, successful CEO's, brilliant scientists, professional athletes—*everyone* who has ever lived, has spent a good chunk of life asleep. Sleep is an unavoidable biological boundary which reminds us that we are finite.

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Adult Sunday School 2015-2016



Grant Stauter

Sunday School starts Sunday, September 13. Grant Stauter, our Associate Pastor, has been busy planning the adult classes for the upcoming Sunday School year. He's planned several shorter classes so that a variety of subjects can be covered throughout the year. Make your plans to join a class (or two) this year.

2015

Sept-Oct Six-week classes

- **Two Ways to Live** This class is designed for two purposes:
 1. to know/solidify the gospel in our own minds
 2. to equip us to go out and share it with others.

- **Conversion** What does God do when he saves someone? How does conversion happen? What is the fruit of salvation? In this class, you will find the answers to these questions and gain a biblical understanding of being born again.

Oct 25 Free week for fellowship.

Classes for children, Jr. High and Sr. High will meet.

Nov-Dec Six-week classes

- **Christians in the Workplace** Americans spend more time working than any other activity, so what does it look like to be a Christian in your job? How does the fact that Jesus has paid for your sins and redeemed you affect your job? Find out in this class.

- **Biblical Theology** Right theology (knowledge of God) leads to right worship and right obedience. In this class, we will learn what God has revealed to us from the Bible (hence the title). This class will fuel your love, holiness, worship, witness, and unity.

2016

Jan Four-week classes

- **Money** The purpose of this class will be to help us better understand God's intention for how we use our money and possessions. Even though there is Christian liberty on this topic, there are still some guiding principles that God gives us.
- **Meeting with God** This class will share some basic tools on how to meet with God daily.

Feb • **Book Groups** - titles to be announced later

Mar-May 12-week classes

- **Suffering** The Bible tells us to be prepared for the fiery trials that are coming. This class prepares us so that we don't just survive the fiery trial but are able to be a witness through it.
- **Parenthood** Learn about God's purpose for family, parenting, and how it involves the church.

TBA There will also be an **early-bird class** meeting at 8 a.m. during the year. Details to come.

Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

Psalm 119:27 ESV



Becky Roth is our Sunday School Superintendent. She oversees the children's, Jr. High and Sr. High classes.

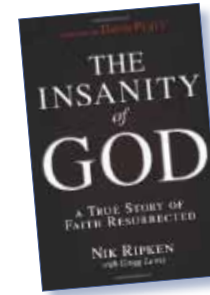
No Sunday School

- Nov 22 Thanksgiving meal
- Dec 13 Children's Christmas program
- Dec 27 Christmas break
- Jan 17 Annual Meeting
- Mar 27 Easter

Register kids for Sunday School

August 23, 30 and September 6 during coffee fellowship

Book Review: The Insanity of God



"To grasp the full meaning of the Resurrection, we first have to witness or experience crucifixion. If we spend our lives so afraid of suffering, so averse to sacrifice, that we avoid even the risk of persecution, then we might never discover the true wonder, joy and power of a resurrection faith. Ironically, avoiding suffering could be the very thing that prevents us from partnering deeply with the Risen Jesus."—Nik Ripken

The book, *The Insanity of God* by Nik Ripken (pseudonym), came to me highly recommended by a friend and I immediately questioned what I was getting myself into. Fortunately, the misleading title has very little to do with the actual content of this book. The first few chapters are a background on Ripken, his family, and his mission work which lays the ground work for what's to come. After a few years on the ground in Somalia, Ripken undertakes a worldwide research project to study the oppression of Christians. His plan is to create a "training curriculum" for new missionaries going into persecuted parts of the world. He sums up this mission best himself when he says, "Surely, wherever believers have suffered, and still suffer, for their faith, we could find wise and faithful

people who would be willing to share their spiritual survival strategies from the hardship they have faced. And maybe their wisdom could help other believers to minister more effectively." Ripken quickly finds the naivety of this hypothesis and discovers the true value lies in the stories of hope and the true understanding of faithfulness at whatever cost.

After reading about the lives and attitudes of persecuted Christians around the world and reflecting on 2 Timothy 3:12, "all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," it is hard not to feel complacent spiritually living in the safety of Central Illinois. Very few of us have experienced systematic persecution or ever will, and Ripken makes it clear that there is nothing inherently wrong with this. Seeking persecution for validation of our faith is not the goal: the goal is to proclaim Christ and to obey him. "Serving God is not a matter of location but a matter of obedience." (p. 75)

So how can we use this book as a tool to mature our personal faith? I think it serves as a necessary perspective as we pray for Christians around the world. I realized that persecuted Christians rarely ask us to pray for the persecution to cease but for the strength to endure it. This realization should help us to see the persecuted Church through a different lens that provides a clear focus when we pray.—Cory Deckard

Beautiful Feet: Bill Allison Visit



Pictured L-R: Keri Hany, Betty Kaupp, Seth Foor, Katie Zeller, Chuck Albritton, Stacy Allison holding Ivy, and Bill Allison. Delmar Smith also serves on Missions and was unable to attend.

"We seek to spread the virus of Jesus-like discipling as a way of life to everyone we meet everywhere we go." —Bill Allison, Cadre Ministries

Christ Community welcomed long-time friend and local missionary, Bill Allison, on July 19. Bill shared the Word, preaching from 1 John 2. True to his passion and ministry, he challenged us to grow in our likeness to Jesus by living as His disciple and making disciples of others.

The Missions Team seeks to support and bless our missionaries in practical ways. If you would like to "adopt" one of our missionaries by encouraging them with emails, cards, and small care packages, please see anyone on the Missions Team (picture and names to the left).

Bill blogs at cupjoewithbill.com



August Birthdays

- 01 Irma Grusy
- 01 Dave Ihlenfeldt
- 02 Bob Wettstein
- 03 David Zeller
- 07 Kathy Hany
- 08 Tanner Benedict
- 08 JoAnn Liming
- 09 Darci Poppen
- 09 Hunter Stanhouse
- 09 Christine Zeller
- 10 Kevin Yergler
- 11 Jimmy Bridgers
- 15 Shirley Carr
- 15 Cindy Fairchild
- 18 Alicia Allen
- 22 Sophia Hall
- 22 Rebekah Kaeb
- 22 Saylor Welsch
- 31 Becky Stoller

Anniversaries

- 09 Ken & Janell Hall
- 14 Dennis & Margie Stauter
- 17 Tim & Betty Kaupp
- 18 Seth & Katie Zeller
- 27 Doug & Bev Nelson

New Birth in July

- 13 Quinn Owen Zeller
Parents: Abe & Emily Zeller
Grandparents:
Dave & Chris Zeller
Alan & Linda Schoppet
- 23 Brynn Margaret Ritter
Grandparents:
Richard & Carol Ritter

Attendance & Offering

7/5	273	\$ 4,807
7/12	322	\$ 8,030
7/19	304	\$ 7,907
7/26	311	\$ 7,582



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