

# JUNE



The Sr. High met for an evening of Ultimate Frisbee. Our youth groups are scheduling activities throughout the summer. You can follow them on Facebook. Photo by Marqui Krone



Jenn Morrison, Stephenie Deckard, Linda Hartzler, with helpers, Harper and Reese, cooked and set-up for the Spare & Share Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.



# JUNE

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### Dear Church Family,

No doubt, by now, you're well acquainted with the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling to sanction gay marriage this past month. Such a significant decision has unleashed an avalanche of response through news outlets and social media, and the commentary in our hyper-connected world can be wearying. The fruit of long-haul, humble fidelity to the Scriptures, not knee-jerk reactions, will be the church's primary means of being a "city on a hill" (Matthew 5:14).

The Supreme Court decision is only symptomatic of a much larger sexual revolution. Gay marriage is the latest flavor of sexual immorality, but there are many other deviations from God's plan for sexuality already commonly accepted among us. Thus, as the church upholds God's good design for marriage, we must look at the log in our own eye. Having a log in one's eye does not disqualify one from moral judgment, but it tempers the manner in which one speaks and loves. Remember, every time homosexual immorality is mentioned in Scripture, heterosexual immorality is condemned right next to it. Both call for repentance and faith in the mercy of God through Christ.

I found Pastor John Piper's blog post written on the day of the Court's decision to represent a biblical reaction weighted with godly sorrow. His words accurately express my own heart. I share Piper's article in order that we may each be humble in our own need for Savior, rooted in love for fellow sinners in this world, and steadfastly committed to the glory of God.

### Hopeful in the Lord, Andy

On June 26, 2015, the following article was posted at [www.desiring-god.org](http://www.desiring-god.org). This article is re-published with permission:

Jesus died so that heterosexual and homosexual sinners might be saved. Jesus created sexuality, and has a clear will for how it is to be experienced in holiness and joy.

His will is that a man might leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and that the two become one flesh (Mark 10:6-9). In this union, sexuality finds its God-appointed meaning, whether in personal-physical unification, symbolic representation, sensual jubilation, or fruitful procreation. For those who have forsaken God's path of sexual fulfillment, and walked into homosexual intercourse or heterosexual extramarital fornication or adultery, Jesus offers astonishing

mercy. "Such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

But today this salvation from sinful sexual acts was not embraced. Instead there was massive institutionalization of sin. In a 5-to-4 decision, the Supreme Court of the United States of America has ruled that states cannot ban same-sex marriage.

The Bible is not silent about such decisions. Alongside its clearest explanation of the sin of homosexual intercourse (Ro-

*"... a biblical reaction weighted with godly sorrow."*

mans 1:24-27) stands the indictment of the approval and institutionalization of it. Though people know intuitively that homo-

sexual acts (along with gossip, slander, insolence, haughtiness, boasting, faithlessness, heartlessness, ruthlessness) are sin, "they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them" (Romans 1:29-32). "I tell you even with tears, that many glory in their shame" (Philippians 3:18-19). This is what the highest court in our land did today — knowing these deeds are wrong, "yet approving those who practice them."

My sense is that we do not realize what a calamity is happening around us. The new thing—new for America, and new for history—is not homosexuality. That brokenness has been here since we were all broken in the fall of man. (And there is a great distinction between the orientation and the act—just like there is a great difference between my orientation to pride and the act of boasting.)

What's new is not even the celebration and approval of homosexual sin. Homosexual behavior has been exploited, and reveled in, and celebrated in art, for millennia. What's new is normalization and institutionalization. This is the new calamity.

My main reason for writing is not to mount a political counter-assault. I don't think that is the calling of the church as such. My reason for writing is to help the church feel the sorrow of these days. And the magnitude of the assault on God and his image in man.

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Dee Kitchell, Pat & John McKey and Doug Nelson planted flowers on Monday. Doug, John, and Doug's grandson, Asher, took care of watering on Tuesday.



**Hop on for Hope Bike Ride Fundraiser**  
August 1 starting at 6-8 am  
First United Methodist Church of LeRoy  
Benefits Lifesong's Village of Hope, Guatemala  
Register on Facebook: *Hop on for Hope Bike Ride*

### First Quarter Surplus Giving

Lifesong for Orphans received \$17,003.35 designated to their Ukraine ministry.

Salem4Youth received \$1,026.22 from surplus and Pancake Day proceeds of \$1,473.78.

### 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

406 W 7th Street, PO Box 280, Gridley, IL 61744 Phone 747-2299 [www.christ-cc.org](http://www.christ-cc.org)

### Youth Groups

Special events through the summer  
Jr. High: Jordan McKinsey | Seth Foor  
Sr. High: Danny Kaupp | Jordan Krone

### Pastoral Staff

Andy Huetter, Sr. Pastor  
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

# Vacation Bible School: July 27-31 from 6-8 pm



"Those who look to HIM are radiant..." Psalm 34:5

## Ted Talks for the Soul

TED Talks are "ideas worth sharing" in 18 minutes. This year, the adult VBS class will feature three TED Talks each evening followed by a Q & A time with each speaker.

Topics will include: conflict resolution, God's glory in creation, technology and the soul, Christian biography, spiritual gifts, prayer, food, and much more.

A complete list of titles for each talk will be available before VBS.

Please join the class to hear some "TED Talks for the Soul" from 6:15-7:45 any VBS night you're available.



The Good Shepherd School doesn't have a large lot so the building was built UP rather than sprawling out.

**There is still time to register!** Download the form at our website—[christ-cc.org/#/ministries/vacation-bible-school](http://christ-cc.org/#/ministries/vacation-bible-school)—or email Denise Benedict at [benedict@gridcom.net](mailto:benedict@gridcom.net). T-shirts are available for \$6/shirt.

**We still need cookies and nursery workers.** Sign up to help at this link: [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a8a72ea31-vbs2013](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445a8a72ea31-vbs2013)

Our VBS coordinators: Kaylene Butikofer, Erin Kaupp, and Lori Hardman.

## VBS offering will go to the Good Shepherd School, Guatemala

The VBS offering this year will help purchase school desks and a projector for Good Shepherd School.

Dan and Christi Ucherek, work with the school located in a remote and impoverished village. The school is run by the local church who struggles to cover costs. Dan Ucherek, on behalf of Orphan Outreach, helps with oversight of the school by regularly visiting the school.



Students in a classroom at the Good Shepherd School.

In 2014, the Ucherek's shared with us the financial plight of the school. The local church was growing weary of the financial struggles and was ready to close the school. If this happened, the children in the village would have no educational opportunity and no hope of escaping the poverty. Christ Community sent \$5000 from the 2014 surplus to Orphan Outreach which enabled the church to keep the school open for 5 months until more sponsors could be found by Orphan Outreach.



Titus (3), Dan, Finley (3), Malaki, (5), Christi, and Isaias (7 months).

## Meet Dan and Christi Ucherek, missionaries to Guatemala

"We are serving and spreading the name of Jesus throughout the nation of Guatemala under the care of Orphan Outreach. In doing so, we are evaluating existing programs, making sure goals are being met at each ministry site, evaluating each child to create a plan to ensure they are thriving, building an alliance of Guatemalan churches and pastors to encourage indigenous adoption and foster care which will lead to the downsizing of orphanages, construction oversight, music ministry to the children, and much more. We are so thrilled to see how the Guatemalan church is starting to understand what Scripture says about caring for the orphan and humbled that God would allow us to be a part of this change!"

### Christ Community has history with Guatemala

- In 2013, Christ Community sent a short-term team to Village of Hope, a Lifesong ministry in Guatemala.
- The VBS offering in 2013 was sent to Village of Hope to purchase shoes for children who couldn't afford to buy them.
- \$5000 of the 2014 Surplus Giving helped the Good Shepherd School.
- Christ Community has supported the Ucherek family since 2013. They shared with our students at our 2013 VBS.



John Piper article continued from front page

Christians, more clearly than others, can see the tidal wave of pain that is on the way. Sin carries in it its own misery: "Men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error" (Romans 1:27). And on top of sin's self-destructive power comes, eventually, the final wrath of God: "sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming" (Colossians 3:5-6). Christians know what is coming, not only because we see it in the Bible, but because we have tasted the sorrowful fruit of our own sins. We do not escape the truth that we reap what we sow. Our marriages, our children, our churches, our institutions—they are all troubled because of our sins.

The difference is: We weep over our sins. We don't celebrate them. We don't institutionalize them. We turn to Jesus for forgiveness and help. We cry to Jesus, "who delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10). And in our best moments, we weep for the world, and for our own nation. In the days of Ezekiel, God put a mark of hope "on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in Jerusalem" (Ezekiel 9:4).

This is what I am writing for. Not political action, but love for the name of God and compassion for the city of destruction.

"My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law." (Psalm 119:136)  
—John Piper

## News From Our Parish Nurse Back-to-school means shots & physicals

### Time to call the doctor

It's time to start thinking about school physicals and immunizations for preschool, kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades. Immunization requirements have changed this year—previously some were optional—so make sure your child is current.

The current Illinois law requires both the physical and immunizations to be completed by October 15. If proper documentation is not turned in by that date, by law, the school must turn your child away from school.

Call now for an appointment! It gets harder to get an appointment as we approach the start of school.

### Health department referrals

Your doctor's office may refer you to the McLean County Health Department for the immunizations. Children with Medicaid, All Kids or uninsured are generally referred to the health department. VCP (free-state provided) immunizations are no longer available at most offices due to the many regulations, paperwork and availability.

Immunizations must be completed by October 15. Call now to make an appointment.

Per the website, McLean County Health Department also gives immunizations for patients with insurance. Check the website for the current list. Unfortunately many insurance plans no longer cover immunizations or may "undercover" them (not paying the entire amount).

The Health Department requires an appointment for immunizations: 309-888-5455. If you do not live in McLean county, please contact your county's health department for specifics on immunization clinics.

### Sports physicals

Sports physical date requirements are specific to the sport. Check with the school for the required date for your child's sport. Sports physicals are good for one calendar year.



Carrie Dixon serves as Christ Community's parish nurse. Please call Carrie with health questions or if you need assistance navigating through the health care world.  
Home 815-796-3232  
Cell 815-848-2205

### July Birthdays

- 01 Marsha Albritton
- 01 Ely Huette
- 02 Lois Burke
- 04 Hannah Ludy
- 04 Pam Neal
- 06 Benjamin Porzelius
- 07 Jeff Benedict
- 07 Alex Poppen
- 08 Zack Moulton
- 09 Finn Zeller
- 10 Randy Barth
- 10 Lydia Hall
- 12 Jack Erwin
- 14 Grant Morrison
- 15 Stephanie Richard
- 21 Madalynn Morrison
- 21 Gracie Schultz
- 22 Betty Kaupp
- 22 Creed Welsch
- 24 Sonya Hughes
- 25 Grace Edwards
- 25 Chris Gentes
- 26 Lucas Allen
- 26 Amanda Carls
- 26 Nadine Finck
- 26 Heather Stanhouse
- 27 Calee Schultz
- 31 Marqui Krone

### Anniversaries

- 05 Alan & Linda Schoppet
- 08 Grant & Jill Stauter
- 09 Paul & Susan Lairming
- 16 Tim & Cindy Fairchild
- 20 Randy & Mandy Barth
- 21 Bob & Anne Wettstein
- 21 Delmar & Cathy Smith
- 21 Kenny & Dianne Kuerth
- 24 Frankie & Nadine Finck
- 25 Brian & Susan Buchanan

### New Birth

- 30 Micah Emmett Lee Smart  
Parents: Nate & Leigh Ann Smart  
Grandmother: Dee Kitchell

### Attendance & Offering

6/7	319	\$ 7,870
6/14	271	\$ 9,917
6/21	256	\$ 5,542
6/28	314	\$11,301



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