



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## STARTING A NEW YEAR

Well, 2018 came to an end and now it's time to start over. It sounds weird to say we get to start over when we are right in the middle of the school year. But, with the beginning of a new year, we almost get a clean slate... a restart. Some people have had a rough 2018 while others have had a pretty blessed 2018. All of us get to start 2019 with a fresh attitude. How are you going to start the year? Are you going to start it with a chip on your shoulder because 2018 didn't go as you planned? Or, are you going to start 2019 with a positive attitude

knowing that you are the only one who gets to make that decision? You see, you are the only one who gets to determine how you feel on any given day. You get to decide if you are going to be angry at the world because it keeps pushing you down or if you are going to be positive and push back on the world and make the best of your situation. Each day we are faced with countless situations and decisions. You get to decide in those moments what you are going to do, what you are going to say, and how you are going to

feel and react. I challenge you, as this new year is starting, to lean in to God for strength to make good choices and be positive regardless of the situation thrown at you. I know this will be hard, but I think we will have a great 2019 if we all choose to make that choice.

We get to choose every day...

### Kim's Korner

Happy New Year! I pray that you all had a blessed holiday season!

As we head into 2019 much like Eric, I am excited to see what this year will bring. It will be hard to beat 2018 ;), but we can sure try!

I have been thinking a lot about what I want to do this year in the last couple weeks. As my leave time is coming to an end and I have to go back to work soon, it has me focusing on the things that are most important to me and analyzing how I spend my time.

I started a new devotional this morning and it was talking about how we are clay pots, molded and crafted by the maker. But we are not meant to be sealed up with a lid. When our top is open we can be filled with an unlimited amount of stuff that we can then share with those around us.

God wants us to be open to learning and teaching His word. We are to be open to new things that God wants us to do. We are to be open to stepping out of our comfort zone, whatever that may look like.

I am still not sure what God

has in store for me this year but I am

certain about two things. The most important thing for me this year is to be an open vessel that God can fill up and then pour out on the people around me. And I want to spend my time in His word, following His will and basking in His Love!

2 Corinthians 4:7

I hope you all have a great start back to school next week!



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## SPIRITUAL- HEALTH SERIES

What is Spiritual Health and why are we talking about it for 2 months? Well, when you go to the doctor because you aren't feeling well, you have your physical health analyzed. The doctor will ask a few questions, take some vital signs and he may run some test or possibly do some blood work. All of the things the nurses and doctors will do have a purpose... they all gauge your physical health. The doctor will then give some directions on how to possibly improve your overall health. It might be things like eat healthier, exercise more, or drink more water and less soda. It could be something more specific and he may prescribe you some medications to help with things like an infection or something like that. Our series that will focus on Spiritual Health is similar. We are going to talk about 8 different topics and see what the Bible says about

each of them. The difference here is that YOU will be doing the tests. You will have the opportunity to personally analyze your spiritual health and see what you need to do to get more spiritually healthy. This isn't about seeing what you are doing wrong. The truth is that each of us can improve in many areas of our lives. This series will give each of us an opportunity to see what we can improve on and then we have the choice on whether or not to act on what we find. I'm guessing that most of us already know what we need to improve on or how we can grow in our relationship with Christ. This series will help us see how we can do that. It is my prayer through this that we will ALL come out on the other side with a deeper relationship with our Creator and a better understanding of what that means. I am challenging each of you to come to Youth Group each week over the next 8 weeks so we can all walk this road together. Also, we will be going through this same series through church each Sunday morning, although it will be delivered slightly different. It's going to be a great opportunity for us all to grow individually and together!

# 2019

## WHAT'S IN A NEW YEAR?

As I sit here on New Year's Day writing this (yes, the Newsletter is late...), I am wondering what 2019 will bring. I look back at 2018 and see a lot of changes in our life: I took on more responsibility at the church, we finally got to bring Abigail home from India, we decided to stop remodeling our house and move on to other plans, and we replaced our 15 year old couch. :) As I look in to 2019, there are a few things I would like to change. Like so many others, I would like to be healthier and be more active. My new responsibilities at the church have certainly changed the way my

week looks, but I would like to make more time for activities. I would also like to spend more time with God and in His word on a personal level. I study passages and cross reference things every week planning and preparing sermons for Sunday morning and for Youth Group, but I want to do more of it as a personal growth activity. As a family, we have plans for a great family vacation with Abigail, and if our dream comes true, we'll sell our house and build a new one. This is a dream I've had for a long time, but didn't think I could do it. But, as we have tackled the partial

remodel of our current house, and looked at all the things in our house we would like to change, we decided it would be easier to start from scratch and build it ourselves. I am so looking forward to putting that dream in to action. But, at this stage, it is still a dream. What else does 2019 hold for us? I'm not sure, but with the things we would like to accomplish this year, it is looking like it just might be a year to remember. After all, we don't have to wait for an adoption trip on the horizon, we can actually live our lives and do what we want to do. What about you? What dreams do you have for this year?

# JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 <i>No YG</i>	31	1	2 <i>No YG</i>	3	4	5
Bible Application	7	8	Bible Application	10	11	12
Character	14	15	Character	17	18	19
<i>Evangelism</i>	21	22	<i>Evangelism</i>	24	25	26
Fellowship	28	29	Fellowship	31	1	2

**30<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>** — No Youth Group... Christmas Break!!

**6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>** — this is the first week of our 8-week Series on Spiritual Health. This week we'll be looking at James 1:22 (and others) and talk about *Bible Application*.

**13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** — Our Spiritual Health topic for this week is *Character*. We'll turn to Galatians 5:22-23 for our main reference, but we'll look at others as well.

**20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** — Week 3 is *Evangelism*. This is always a scary topic, but we'll talk through it this week and show we can apply the idea of sharing our faith others. Our main text will be Matthew 28:18-20.

**27<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>** — We are on week 4 of Spiritual Health and we'll be looking at *Fellowship* with the main focus being on Hebrews 10:25.

## FEBRUARY

February is a time that many think of Love. Valentine's Day is in the middle of February and it is a time that so many in our culture take to show someone they are loved. Most often it is a day looked at as showing love to a boyfriend/girlfriend or husband/wife. But, it is a good reminder that we should be showing everyone in our lives that we love them. There should be no question about our love on any given day, but Valentine's Day is a specific day, one special occasion to show love to people in our lives. God left us a book, the Bible, to tell us how much He loves us. It is a story that is woven through time that tells how much God loves us and what He has done to show it, including sending His own son to die for you. What about you, how

are you going to show your love? Now don't hear me wrong, I'm not saying you have to spend a bunch of money and buy flowers and candy for everyone in your life... you don't have to buy anything, really. What you can do is think of a special way to simply show that you care. There are many ways you can do that: you could make breakfast for your parents, write an encouraging letter to your teachers, or tell your youth pastor that you want to have lunch with him & his wife ;). Whatever you chose to do, I encourage you to take this opportunity to start thinking about how you can show love and appreciation to those in your life. I have given you some warning, so you now you can take some time and think about what you are going to do with it. Have fun with it!!

### GETTING TOGETHER...

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW, THE OFFER IS ALWAYS OPEN TO GET TOGETHER FOR LUNCH, COFFEE, OR ICE CREAM... OR WHATEVER. I WILL ALWAYS MAKE TIME TO FIT IN TIME TO MEET WITH ANY OF YOU (PARENTS OR STUDENTS). ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LET ME KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO GET TOGETHER. WE CAN MAKE A PLAN FROM THERE. HERE'S MY INFO FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T HAVE IT. CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!



*"Reaching the Children and Youth of Western Delta County.  
Declaring God's Love from One Generation to the Next."*

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