



Words of Grace

2018 Scrapbook



Feb.
Kids
Night

May
Clean Up
Day



June
Worship at
Ahquabi

June VBS



VBS 2018



Nov.
Bobcats/
Lynx

Dec.
Children's
Program



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Words of Grace

Upcoming Events

Sunday Mornings

Worship Service at 9:30 am

Sunday School at 11:00 am

First Prayer

Jan. 7 at 7:00 pm

Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm

March 4 at 7:00 pm

Food Pantry

Jan. 14 at 5:30 pm

Feb. 11 at 5:30 pm

March 11 at 5:30 pm

Community Meal

Jan. 24 at 5:30 pm

Missions Committee

Jan. 8 at 6:30 pm

Feb. 12 at 6:30 pm

March 12 at 6:30 pm

Women's Craft Night

Jan. 11 at 6:00 pm

Feb. 8 at 6:00 pm

March 8 at 6:00 pm

Student Discipleship

Jan. 11 at 6:00 pm

Feb. 1 at 6:00 pm

March 1 at 6:00 pm

Weekly Events

Wednesdays

Bobcats (men's group)- 10:00 am

Judges Bible Study- 6:30 pm- starts 1/16

Saturday's

"Surrender" Women's Study Group

2x per month on Saturdays at 9:00 am

January - March Birthdays and Anniversaries

January 6	Gay Lynn Berry Cyndee Olson
January 11	Bob Gray
January 12	Joan Bown
January 15	Patty Lanz Jayma Sandquist
January 24	Andrea Palmer Chuck Seymour Ella Schlomer
January 25	Dennis & Laraine Coe
January 29	Jon Roen
January 30	Dave Felton Greg Abbott
January 31	Bill Krempasky
February 1	Chuck & Wilma Seymour
February 5	Owen Walker
February 6	Diana Burkholder Roger Kester Virginia Gray
February 12	John & Joyce Averill
February 14	Bill Campbell
February 15	Gary Ripperger Joyce Averill Nora Golik
February 16	Joel Andrus
February 21	Jen Schlomer Larry Gaumer
February 27	Kevin Schlomer
March 9	Jenny Aust
March 10	Jim & Jacki Stewart Melissa Gray
March 12	Brad Aust
March 17	Fred Bown
March 23	Helene Norman
March 25	Daniel Palmer
March 27	Alice Gaumer
March 28	Brian Reed Jacki Stewart
March 30	Carson Edwards



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Book Review

Book Review: Not recommended for everyone.
Reviewed by Greg Abbott

GOSNELL: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER by Ann McElhinney & Phelim McAleer

Kermit Gosnell is a doctor now serving life in prison for his violation of abortion laws in Pennsylvania. His evil practice of "medicine" came to light because he was being investigated for selling illegal drugs in Philadelphia. Dr. Gosnell's greed finally exposed his illegal late-term abortions, his office's unsanitary and dangerous conditions and his willful exploitation of women.

This book is not a fun read. I could read a chapter or so at each setting before I was so sickened or perturbed that I had to move on to something else. You might be wondering why I could recommend such a book to my brothers and sisters in the faith. Abortion is a controversial and frustrating topic in American society. As I look at our 15 month old granddaughter, I can't imagine what God thinks about our "civilization" called the United States.

Alan Robertson of Duck Dynasty fame wrote the foreword. Here are his last thoughts about the book: "I thank God for Ann & Phelim and their courage for pursuing this story and telling the world about Dr. Kermit Gosnell. I pray that our culture can come to grips with the loss and pain that abortion causes. I also applaud the truth seekers who are exposing the greed and malpractice that are going on every day in our country in the abortion mills. I hope this book and movie can shine some much-needed light on a dark, dark place." We know who the Light is. May Jesus help us.

Entwined by Brenda Hamilton & Shelly Thompson.

This book weaves together the journals of two women who never met each other. But God, in His perfect plan, entwined their lives in this inspirational book compiled by Shelly Thompson. Both women went through very different and difficult seasons in their lives. Shelly had grown completely away from God during the difficult season following her young daughter's rape. Brenda's difficult season occurred during her fight with cervical cancer. Each chapter beautifully entwines words handwritten in their journals. Their struggles took them both on the journey of wanting to take the pen away from God and write their own life stories to finally being willing to turn over the pen entirely to God.

Brenda was a teacher in Walnut, Iowa, with a loving husband and 3 young children. Shelly was a successful business woman and single mom in Des Moines, Iowa. Brenda's life led her to eternal life in heaven. Shelly's led her to leave the corporate world and start a ministry. Along with her second husband, she bought an old, abandoned bank in Walnut, Iowa. Despite many set backs they made it into an antique store, beautiful apartment and a place for her to hold inspirational brunches. Becky Clausen, my dear friends Susan & Megan Dawson and I were blessed to attend one of her brunches in October. Through miscommunications, actually a God thing, we arrived an hour late. Shelly was so gracious that she gave us our own private brunch and inspirational time. Her ministry, The Notebook Cafe, is online at thenotebookcafe.com, e-mail & Facebook. This book can be purchased through her website. Devotions, faith-based articles and more are also available. The Notebook Cafe hosts an annual Women's Conference in October in Des Moines.

I will close with some quotes from Shelly's book. "Entwined by a God, who weaves us to Himself, through each chapter...every step of our journey...bringing us to a brand new never ending story...the Eternal Story. Entwined will give you hope and encouragement whatever chapter in life you find yourself right now."

Book review by Kathie Hutcheson

Words of Grace

Words from Pastor Mark

A Feast for All Peoples

While recently reading the prophet Isaiah, I came across this stunning promise: *“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined”* (Isaiah 25:6, ESV).

This promise points, ultimately, to eternity. Reflecting on this verse, scholar Alec Motyer writes: “. . . ultimate, eternal reality is a banquet, with no expense spared, every provision made and, lest there should be anything to mar our enjoyment of it, every tear dried (cf. Rev. 7:17)” (*Isaiah by the Day*, p. 126).

What a future the child of God anticipates! It’ll be so rich, so bountiful, that God’s Word paints it as a grand feast, a luxurious spread of the best of foods and wines. This imagery speaks of rich and abundant satisfaction. We will be completely satisfied by all that God is for us.

This imagery also denotes intimate fellowship, as that is what feasts were for. To gather around a table and eat together in biblical times was never simply for the sake of ingesting food and quenching one’s thirst. Eating together was an opportunity to richly enjoy one another, to experience oneness.

This promise sounds very similar to the one made at the end of the book of Revelation. There, in chapter 19, we find a remarkable invitation to another amazing banquet, called the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Again quoting Motyer, “. . . this is what salvation is. Eternal bounty, the pure hilarious joy of the Lamb’s wedding breakfast, ‘the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast’” (p. 126).

May you abound in this hope!



“We will be completely satisfied by all that God has for us.”

Pastor Mark

Words of Grace

Thoughts for Families

Church as the Bride of Christ

By Pastor Brad

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” (Ephesians 5:25-33)

“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” (Revelation 19:6-8)

The New Testament writers use numerous metaphors for the church to help us both understand its nature and live as the church. One frequent metaphor for the church is the bride of Christ. Jesus referred to himself as a bridegroom on several occasions (Matthew 9:15; 25:1, 5, 10), and subsequently New Testament writers refer to the church as his bride (Ephesians 5:25, 31-32; Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9). What’s interesting is that the New Testament writers use this metaphor in three different ways.

One use of the metaphor displays God’s love for his people. Just as a groom loves his bride, so God loves his church. We see this primarily in Ephesians 5, where Paul presents Christ’s love for the church as the model for husbands to follow with their wives. Specifically Paul says Christ nourishes and cherishes the church (verse 29). But the primary way he shows his love for the church is by giving himself up for her (verse 25). God’s love for us was settled on the cross (Romans 5:8).

Another use of the metaphor displays God’s sanctification of his people. We see this both in Ephesians 5 and Revelation 19. Christ cleanses his people by the washing of water with the word. Why? So that he might present her to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle...that she might be holy and without blemish. We clothe ourselves with fine linen, bright and pure. We are not saved through our good works; Christ’s righteousness is credited to our account. But we also begin a lifelong process of sanctification, being made righteous by Christ.

The final use of the metaphor points to the great wedding subsequent feast to come (Revelation 19:7-9). Just as a bride looks forward to that day, so we should long for the second coming of Christ. Indeed, what a great celebration it will be!

Why does this matter that we are the bride of Christ? First, viewing members of Grace EFC as the bride of Christ should cause us to love one another as God’s beloved. How could we not love our Savior’s bride? Second, we have peace and security, knowing that God loves us. Third, we cooperate with the Spirit in our sanctification, and we encourage other Christians to do the same (Hebrews 10:24). Fourth, we aim to restore fellow Christians to God and one another when they sin (Galatians 6:1), even through discipline when necessary (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7). Finally, we eagerly prepare and wait for Christ’s return (Matthew 25).

Some questions to ponder:

- How does the metaphor of church as the bride of Christ affect how you view yourself? Other Christians?
- Do you ever doubt God’s love for you? How does Romans 5:8 help you conquer those doubts and grow your trust in God’s love for you?
- How does God’s word aid your sanctification?
- In what specific ways are you, in God’s power, intentionally fighting sin and pursuing holiness? How do you encourage fellow believers to do the same?

About Grace EFC

Glorifying God. Loving People. Teaching God's Word

Our Mission: to glorify God through the power of the Holy Spirit by honoring Christ's name, teaching His Word, loving His people and expanding His Kingdom.

Who We Are: We are part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. We are people from diverse backgrounds united by our love for God, for each other, and for the world.

Our worship blends time-honored hymns in a modern style along with contemporary hymns and songs that honor and glorify Jesus Christ. Messages at Grace feature clear, systematic teaching of the Bible with timeless truths that apply to our lives.



108 N. Jefferson Way
Indianola, Iowa 50125

Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 AM
Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM