



Cornerstone Connection

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 2 Young at Heart Dinner & Showboat in Clinton
- Aug 5 AM Communion; Blueprint for Membership CLASS 101
- Aug 8 Youth Pastor Search Team Meeting
- Aug 9 Ladies Luncheon at the Depot in Donahue
- Aug 9 SOLID Archery & Bonfire Rescheduled Event
- Aug 12 SOLID Luncheon
- Aug 17 CBC DeWitt Campus Annual Back to School Movie Night
- Aug 22 Elder Meeting
- Aug 23 1st Day of School
- Aug 23 Missions Meeting
- Aug 24 Food Pantry
- Aug 26 Outdoor Baptism at the home of Nick & Sarah Hansel
- Aug 29 AWANA Kickoff

Pastor Scott's Perspective —“Living Daily with Awareness”

We believe that our God is the one true living God and that He is alive and present and active in the world today. And then we often live our daily lives as though that weren't true.

If it is really true that God is alive and present and active in the world today, wouldn't we expect to see some signs and evidence of that activity around us? Do you start each day – or many days – or any days – with the expectation of seeing God at work around you – in your neighborhood, in your workplace, in your school, in your family?

How would your life change if you began each day with these two basic affirmations (from *Experiencing God*): **God is always at work around me, and He invites me to become involved with Him in His work?**

It begins with awareness. Awareness of our surroundings. Awareness of God's Presence. Eyes open to seeing signs of God's activity around us.

Jesus lived his daily life with that kind of awareness. **So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do**

nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.” (John 5:19-20)

“Do we believe that the Father loves us and will show us what He is doing so that we can join Him in His work?”

Jesus watched to see what the Father was doing. Jesus did what He saw the Father doing. His foundational belief? *The Father loves me and shows me everything He is doing.* That's how Jesus lived his life and carried out his ministry.

That awareness is grounded in what we believe about God. **Do we believe that the Father loves us and will show us what He is doing so that we can join Him in His work?**

If we believe that, wouldn't we want to live with an awareness of God's Presence and activity? Wouldn't we want to be on the lookout for where God is at work around us?

Henry Blackaby mentions two factors that are important for recognizing the activity of God:
1) **You must be living in an intimate love relationship with God.** This is the starting point for all spiritual understanding and discernment – this is the foundation for understanding God's ways and purposes, and recognizing His activity.
2) **God must take the initiative to open the eyes of your heart** – your spiritual eyes – so that you can see what God is doing.

That means we're not in control of how we serve the Lord. *We can make our own plans, but only God can show us where he is working, and He must extend the invitation to us to join Him in that work.*

Can we count on Him to do so? **YES – just as the Father loved the Son and showed Him what He was doing – so also God loves us and will show us what He is doing.**

So when we pray for God to reveal to us His activity around
(continued on Page 2)

A Word From Pastor Mark

I hope you are experiencing God in new ways as a result of our study in *Experiencing God*. The study is only going to get better as we spend weeks focusing on the 7 Realities and implementing them in our lives. In order to experience God we will need to take a step of faith- to obey His

voice. It is then that you get to truly experience Him.

God commanded His people to remember when He acted and they experienced Him in powerful ways. The Psalmist writes, “I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have

done; I ponder the work of your hands. (Psalm 143:5 ESV) Asaph wrote in Psalm 77:11-15 (ESV), “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.
(continued on Page 3)

Pastor Scott's Perspective *(continued)*

us – we should pay attention to what we see in the days and weeks following that prayer – we should expect to see the activity of God revealed to us.

What can we do to position ourselves to see where God is working so that we can join Him?

First priority: develop your love relationship with God.

Spend time with God in worship – and in prayer – and in Bible study. Do the daily lessons in the Experiencing God workbooks.

Second: pray and watch to see what God does next.

Ask God to show you where He is at work in a church ministry or in your neighborhood or workplace or school or sports team or circle of friends or relatives. Ask God to show you who is seeking to know God or learn more about the Bible or asking questions about who Jesus is. *Then be alert to watch for what happens next.*

Third: make the connection.

*Make the connection between your prayers and what happens next. This is where we often miss the boat. We pray but don't really expect anything to happen. Or we pray with a specific result in mind – leading to tunnel vision – with the result that we don't even pay attention to what God does next because it is different than what we expected. **Pray and watch to see what God does next and make the connection.***

Fourth: watch and listen for evidence that God is at work.

How do you know when God is at work in the lives of the people around you? *As you ask questions about what is happening in their life – and as you listen to them share what is on their heart – you may hear evidence of God's activity in drawing them to Himself.*

What do I mean by that? *To recognize God's activity, we need to understand what are some things that only God can do.*

No one seeks for God on their own initiative; and no one understands spiritual truths on their own (Romans 3:10-11). **Therefore, if someone around you is seeking God – or is seeking to understand spiritual truth – that is God's activity in their life.**

Or if someone is experiencing troubled guilt feelings or is concerned about death and facing God's judgment – *that is the work of the Spirit of God in their life showing them their need of a Savior.* (John 16:8)

Or if someone is asking questions about Jesus or is expressing an interest in a relationship with Jesus – *that is God's activity in their life.* **No one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws them.** (John 6:44) **Whenever you see someone around you moving toward God or moving toward Jesus – that is God's activity in their life.**

If you see someone beginning or continuing to seek after God and to take an interest in the Bible and to ask questions about spiritual matters – **that is the activity of God – when you see the activity of God – join Him where He is working.**

If you see people drawing near to God in brokenness and repentance and awareness of God's holiness – that is the activity of God.

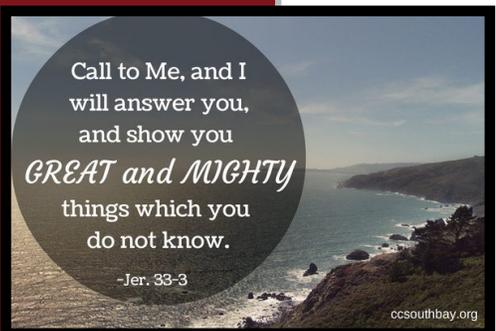
If you see children and youth eagerly studying the Word of God in order to know Jesus Christ more fully – that is the activity of God.

If you see men stepping up to the plate to become men of integrity and live godly lives and become spiritual leaders in their homes and churches and workplaces – that is the activity of God.

If you see people committing themselves to works of mercy and justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed and unwanted and persecuted and fatherless – that is the activity of God.

If you see students and young adults and retired adults going on mission trips or giving their lives in missionary service for the sake of the Gospel – that is the activity of God.

God is at work all around us. When God opens your spiritual eyes so you can see what He is doing – that is His invitation for you to join Him. *When God invites you to become involved with Him in His work – how will you respond to that invitation?*



A Word From Pastor Mark *(continued)*

¹³ Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? ¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. ¹⁵ You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph."

When God brought the Israelites through the flooded Jordan River on dry land He told the people to remember it. Paper was scarce so God had other ways for the people to remember. Joshua 4:1-7 (ESV), "When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, ² "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, ³ and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'" ⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe. ⁵ And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, ⁶ that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' ⁷ then you shall

tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

How do you remember what God has done in and through you? If we don't take time to write things down it is easy to forget those powerful experiences. If you don't have a journal or a place to record your adventures with God now would be a fantastic time to do so. Some of you probably don't enjoy writing. You really don't have to write a lot. Just write enough details to trigger your memory when you look back.

Many years ago I created a file called "Encouraging Ministry Encounters (Allowing myself to be interrupted)." I created it so that I could remember when I joined God in what He was doing- when I experienced great adventures with Him along the way. It has been helpful to look back over it and be reminded how amazing God is and what a privilege it has been to walk with Him.

Here is one of the cool God stories from years ago that I would have forgotten had I not written it down. **11.05.03- Ken-** a 30 year old, twice divorced with five children who lives

at Meadow Lawn Nursing Center accepted Christ. He has chronic pancreatitis thanks to alcohol abuse since 14 years old. In our conversation Ken had three different views of God. First, God did not exist. Second, God did exist but He did not care about us. Third, God was benevolent but we could not know Him until we died. I gave Ken option four- there is a God who loves him deeply and wants to know him now. The lights clicked on when I took him through John 10- that Jesus laid down His life for us. Ken said he felt like crying. After accepting Christ, Ken said he could not stop smiling and that he felt good all over. Jesus entered Ken's life and is already bringing hope and purpose.

God is at work around us and He wants us to join Him in that work. May we obey His voice, follow Him and record what takes place so that we never forget the great adventure with Him.



Kids Against Hunger

Our Quad Cities Area Converge churches are uniting for a special Converge Serve event at Cornerstone on Saturday, **September 29**. We will be hosting a **Kids Against Hunger** service project from 10:00 am – 12 noon. We will be packaging at least 32,000 meals that day to feed hungry children (exact destination to be determined later).

Our share of the cost of those meals is \$2,000. Part of that money will come from the missions budget, but we also want to raise funds through voluntary donations. You may give via check payable to Cornerstone with Kids Against Hunger in the memo. Or you may give online through the Elexio app to the Kids Against Hunger line item.

We will also need to provide 40 volunteers for the event on Sept. 29. All ages can participate. There will be sign-up sheets available later.

There will also be a special missions service Sunday, September 30 at 4:30 pm at Bethany church in Moline.

Please mark your calendars for those special events the weekend of September 29-30.

Church Financial Report

Giving to the General fund (church budget) during the first four weeks of July averaged \$13,935 per Sunday (compared to budget of \$15,550). This is above year-ago levels but less than budget.

For information about our new online giving options, please contact Tony Rupe or Julie Tingle (church office).

Worship attendance in July has been significantly higher than year-ago.

Thank you and God bless you for your faithful support of the Lord's work at Cornerstone.

Pastor Drew's Webb of Worship

August Food Pantry Items

**“Canned meat,
hot & cold
cereal, and
fruit”**

**Please place
donated items
on the cart
outside the
nursery.**

Thank you!



It's fun watching our children grow up. Enjoying life as they move from strictly children's fare for entertainment to enjoying movies that are a little more mature. Of course we'll still continue to watch the latest animated features (assuming they pass our litmus tests and get a decent rating from pluggedin.com), but it's fun to be able to watch movies like the 2005 version of *Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

This is a very welcome change as you might recall my previous writings related to movies like *Frozen*, *Cars 3*, and *The Croods*. I did also write about Indiana Jones once, but my children have yet to see that! *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is perfect fodder for conversations with our children. In the other movies I've had to pick good qualities and highlight those with our children, helping them to see how something represented Christ or godly character.

Recently we watched this movie for my children's first time. They were so excited to see it after 1. having seen the play at the High School, and then 2. my son's having read the entire series of *The Chronicles of Narnia*. It is such a beautiful telling of Christ's sacrifice and is essentially a softball toss for parents when it comes to discussing movies and godly qualities. There are so many lessons to be gleaned from this wonderful movie.

There was one scene in particular, however, that caught my attention. The White Witch was escorted to meet Aslan at Table Rock and her goal was to disclose Edmund's faults

to the Lion. The White Witch declares to Aslan "You have a traitor in your midst." Edmund had turned against his friends and Aslan but Aslan's response is not one of judgment, it is simply "his offense was not against you." The White Witch is not satisfied with this response and so she says Edmund's "blood is my property... unless I have blood as the law demands Narnia will be overturned and perish...that boy will die on the stone table."

When I watched this scene my mind was immediately drawn back to Satan's tactics he loves to use when addressing God's children. His approach is to tell us partial truths, to communicate about the part that best suits his purposes. He loves verses like Galatians 3.10 "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." He knows that we can't keep all of the Law. That is his weapon against us. He loves to shame us and remind us that we are not able to keep the Law.

The White Witch wanted to declare the truths that best suited her purposes, first that Edmund is a traitor and second, traitors deserve death. These were facts. Edmund had, indeed, turned against his friends when he felt put out by them and was enticed by the Turkish Delight on offer from the White Witch, who had revealed herself as the queen. The fact of his betrayal could not be disputed, nor could the consequences which he rightfully deserved. Our own sin and corresponding consequences are facts; it can not be argued that we have never sinned and deserve life.

The consequences for ours and Edmunds trespasses are damnation - eternal death. The White Witch was right when she asserts the notion that the law demands a blood sacrifice. Indeed, "it is the blood that makes atonement" (Leviticus 17.11) and "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9.22).

This is the beautiful part though. In the movie we see Aslan taking the role of Christ; he has become the sacrifice to free Edmund from his trespasses. Edmund was guilty and the price still had to be paid. Aslan, the Christ-figure, took that penalty on himself. The price was paid, but it was paid by someone who had no trespasses of his own, therefore freeing all of Narnia from the White Witch's rule. Christ's offering has freed us from the Law. We could not keep the whole of the Law, yet we have attained forgiveness through Christ's substitutionary sacrifice. By His blood He has "redeemd us from the curse of the Law" (Galatians 3.13) and His sacrifice has gained our freedom from sin and given us the ultimate gift - eternal life.

This is the core of the Gospel and it's wonderful to be able to see such a splendid illustration of it in a movie. As you go through life, enjoying movies with your children, or even talking with your friends about the latest flick you saw, take note of the qualities that point to God and expound upon them, perhaps even use those as tools for sharing the Good News.

A Weekend to Remember Marriage Conference

Is your marriage stuck in a rut and in need of refreshing? Or do you just want to grow deeper into a relationship with your spouse? Below are a couple of conferences that you can sign up for to get away and do just that. Reconnect, Refresh, Reenergize, Rekindle & Remember the love you share.

- Cedar Rapids: November 2-4
- St. Louis: December 7-9



For more information AND to receive a discount, contact Scott or Teresa Bivens at bivstikk@netins.net.

Pastor Steffan's Reckless Obedience

True story, simple reminder...

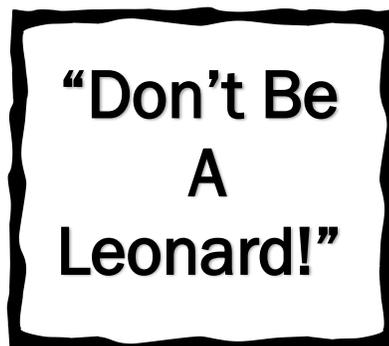
Leonard¹ was entering his junior year at North Scott in the fall of 2014. By all accounts, the first two years of high school had been good years. He was smart. He was well liked. He was a very good basketball player. He was looking forward to all that the school had to offer, especially in terms of basketball as the team was slated to be one of the best in the school's history.

But as the season began, it was apparent to Leonard that his role on the varsity team would be very different than his role on the sophomore team. Playing with the sophomores, he was a starter and leading rebounder, but as a junior on the varsity squad, he would be a role player, playing only a few minutes a game (if at all).

However, he would be integral to the team's success as a member of the scout team. And truth be told, the scout team was the best place for Leonard that year. He just wasn't ready for the physical and mental grind of varsity basketball. But a year of hard work on the scout team would enable him to learn and grow, preparing him for what would come in his senior season.

But Leonard wanted to be a starter. Leonard wanted minutes, and he did not want to have to wait a year to get them. He was certain that the coach was making a mistake and had not properly assessed his gifts and abilities. He was certain that he knew better

than the coach (and his mother agreed). He was a starter, not a scout player. He was ready now, not a year from now. He knew what he wanted for his life, and he would not take "no" for an answer.



Leonard had a decision to make. Either submit his will to the will of his coach and accept his role...or quit the team. Foolishly, Leonard chose the latter.

The price of admission to the North Scott Basketball program was complete submission, and it was a price Leonard refused to pay. Completely self-centered, he could not surrender or submit to him who was in authority over him. Selfishly, he refused to adjust his life to join the team in where it was going. In his pride, he was sure that, without him, the team was certain to fail. In his anger, he "took his ball and went home" never to be part of the program again.

As many of you know, the team that Leonard walked away from went on to capture the school's first boys' basket-

ball state championship. From the tourney MVP to the scout team substitute, all played a vital role in the team's success. Of those that began the season as a member of the team, all but one will ever be known as state champions. All but Leonard. Leonard walked away, and it was Leonard who lost.

Sadly, I believe churches are full of Leonards, those who have heard God's call to join him in what he is doing but refuse to adjust their life or submit their will to him who is in authority over them. Those who, when forced to make a choice, rather than joining God in what he is doing, upset with their role or unwilling to sacrifice, they take their ball and go home. And as a result, they miss out on the blessing that God has in store for them as part of his team. They miss out on the joy. They miss out on the victory.

This month's challenge - learn from Leonard's story. Do not be a Leonard.

¹His name is not actually Leonard...and I mean no offense to anyone named Leonard in using the name Leonard in this story. I chose this name because there is no one in our church named Leonard, but with my luck, between the time I write this and the time it is published, seven Leonards will join the church, three of whom will draw offense from this article. To them I apologize.

Family News

Congratulations to Pastor Scott & Beth Pearson on the birth of their granddaughter, Rosamund Elizabeth Swanson, born on July 19th, weighing 8lb, 12 oz. Parents are Peter & Jill Swanson.

Congratulations to grandparents Ray & Sharon Greving & Jan Kloss on the birth of their new grandson, Charlie Davenport Benedict Greving born July 23rd, weighing 8lbs, 1.4 oz and 20" long. Parents are Ryan & Amber Greving.

Our deepest Sympathy goes out to the following families.

Keith & Shelly Curry on the loss of their son, Marcus.

James & Brandy Simmons on the loss of James' stepdad, Ken Cousino.

Outdoor Baptism - August 26th

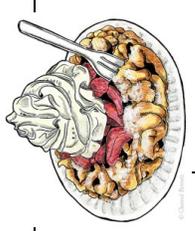
If you are interested in getting baptized and/ or joining the church at our annual outdoor baptism, please let Pastor Steffan or Pastor Mark know. It will be a wonderful time of testimonies and fellowship.

In addition, we'd like to invite everyone to join in the celebration of those getting baptized. We will meet at 4:00 pm at the home of Nick & Sarah Hansel (917 Heiler Court, Eldridge). We will be having a potluck following the baptism, please bring a side dish or dessert to share along with table service. Sandwiches & drinks will be provided. Lastly, please bring your lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.

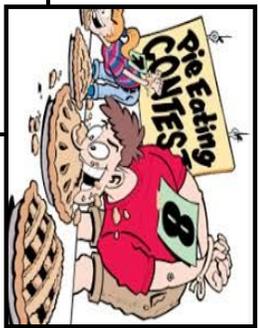


AUGUST 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Joshua Schwartzhoff	6 Shana Snyder Don & Julie Davis Raub & Amy Olsen	7 Raub Olsen Shane & Amy Knoche	8 Conner Ambrosy Carter Loehr Kayleigh Suiter Jimmy & Stephanie Skadall	9 Tori Andrews Jeremiah Graham	10 Summer Arndt Abigail Gainer July Nielsen	11 Amanda Ranfeld Deac & Mary Sue Ryan
12	13 Shelly Curry Dennis Dean Pearl Randel	14 Brandy Simmons Bob & Carmene Granger	15 Luke Simmons Tom White	16 Steve Mielke Rachelle Neill Cory Waack	17 Abbygail Mess Pastor Scott & Beth Pearson	18 Mike Granger
19	20 Laura Goltry Emmaline VonMuenster	21 Matt Burklow Neil Chapman Zach Lotz Ryleigh Wwack	22 Jordyn Olson Madison Trotter	23 Graham Orcutt Keith & Shelly Curry	24 Dustin Henningsen Tressie Senkbile	25 Jewel Hayworth Harold Senkbile
26 Andy Anderson John & Susan McCloy James & Brandy Simmons	27 Lora Nigh Cora Proctor Mason Skadall	28 Will Burklow	29 Sandy Nass Alana Sosnowski Michelle Sosnowski	30 Nevaeh Dvorak Quinn Smith	31 Rich Mohr	

AUGUST 2018



Activities Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 AM Communion 7:45-8:10 am Prayer (E) 8:45 am SS & ABF (DW) 10:00 am Worship Service (DWT) 9:45-10:30 am SS & ABFs (E) 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship Service (E) 4:30-7:30 pm Blueprint Class 101</p>	<p>6 7-8:30 pm Women's Study - DeWitt</p>	<p>7 6:30-8:30 pm Heart Shot</p>	<p>1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study meet at Denny's, NW Blvd 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 7:00 pm Prayer (E)</p>	<p>2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study meet at Green Thumbers 4:30 pm Young at Heart Dinner & Showboat in Clinton 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm Annual Outdoor Back to School Movie Night at DeWitt Campus</p>	<p>4 7:30 am Men's Study - DWTF 7:30 am Men's Study, room 216</p>
<p>12 Nurse Office Open 7:45-8:10 am Prayer (E) 8:45 am SS & ABF (DW) 10:00 am Worship Service (DWT) 9:45-10:30 am SS & ABFs (E) 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship Service (E) 12:15 pm SQUID Luncheon</p>	<p>13 7-8:30 pm Women's Study - DeWitt</p>	<p>14 6:30-8:30 pm Heart Shot</p>	<p>15 6:30 am Men's Bible Study meet at Denny's, NW Blvd 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 7:00 pm Prayer (E)</p>	<p>16 9:00 am Women's Bible Study meet at Green Thumbers 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK</p>	<p>17 6:00 pm Annual Outdoor Back to School Movie Night at DeWitt Campus</p>	<p>18 7:00 am Men's Study - DWTF 7:30 am Men's Study, room 216 7:30 am Trustee Meeting</p>
<p>19 7:45-8:10 am Prayer (E) 8:45 am SS & ABF (DW) 10:00 am Worship Service (DWT) 9:45-10:30 am SS & ABFs (E) 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship Service (E)</p>	<p>20 7-8:30 pm Women's Study - DeWitt</p>	<p>21 6:30-8:30 pm Heart Shot</p>	<p>22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study meet at Denny's, NW Blvd 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 7:00 pm Prayer (E) 8:15 pm Elder Meeting</p>	<p>23 9:00 am Women's Bible Study meet at Green Thumbers 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball in ROCK 7:00 pm Missions Meeting</p>	<p>24 9:30-11:00 am Food Pantry</p>	<p>25 7:30 am Men's Study, room 216</p>
<p>26 Nurse Office Open 7:45-8:10 am Prayer (E) 8:45 am SS & ABF (DW) 10:00 am Worship Service (DWT) 9:45-10:30 am SS & ABFs (E) 8:15 & 10:45 am Worship Service € 4:00 pm Outdoor Baptism</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:30-8:30 pm Heart Shot</p>	<p>29 6:30 am Men's Bible Study meet at Denny's, NW Blvd 6:00 pm AWANA KickOff 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 7:00 pm Prayer (E)</p>	<p>30 9:00 am Women's Bible Study meet at Green Thumbers</p>	<p>31</p>	

Cornerstone Kids' Connection, by Sandy Nass, DDCM

Annual Outdoor Service

Mark your calendars for our annual outdoor service and picnic that will be held on Sept. 9th at Grace Lutheran Camp.

More details will be coming soon.

Hope to see you there!



School starts just one month from today. The summer has certainly flown by; I hope all of you have taken some time to slow down and reconnect as families over these brief few months.

Fall Children's Ministry is just around the corner.

Cornerstone's outdoor baptism will be August 26 at the Hansel's house; if your child is interested in being baptized please talk to Pastor Steffan soon.

Awana registration will start shortly; please be on the lookout for emails and bulletin inserts for more details. Our first club night will be August 29. Parents, please pray with your kids to seek God's direction in who they should invite to come to Awana with them. It's such a great minis-

try to introduce kids to Jesus Christ.

'Move Up Sunday' will be September 16th; kids will advance to the next grade level in Sunday School and Children's Church on that day. Kids going into 3rd grade at the Eldridge campus and those going into 5th grade at the DeWitt campus will remain with their families during the worship services starting that day.

Please pray for the following:

*for Cornerstone's kids - that their hearts will be turned towards our Savior, that they will have the eyes to see His working in their lives, the tremendous love He has for them, and that they will recognize the gospel and God's grace is their's every single day, even after they receive Him as Savior.

*for Cornerstone's parents - same.

*for Cornerstone's Children's Ministry - that we will discern the voice of God and go where He wants us to go, do what He wants us to do to bring glory to His name, that God will provide the teachers and leaders we need for all areas of ministry to function well, that those who serve in Children's Ministry will have a passion for the Lord, for the kids of our Cornerstone, and the kids of our community, and that teaching and leading children will bring them tremendous joy. Thank you!

May God bless us as we raise the coming generation to know Him!

Sonshine Community Ministries, by Jan Kloss

Tonight I am tired. So tired. It's harder for me to get in and out of the Sonshine 15 passenger van. My legs really ache at the end of the day. Am I crazy? Well, yes, a little. It helps. One of my grandchildren asked me recently when I would retire. I answered that God had "called" me to this ministry, so I said I would just have to wait until He told me to "quit". Besides, I said, I love what I do. I think it is so important to talk to kids (and adults) about God and His Son, Jesus. I love to tell people that there is hope in this scary, messed up world. I tell the kids that Jesus said: "love the LORD, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And a second like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matt.22:37-39. I want them to know how important it is to love and follow God and also to love and be kind to others. So, here I am God. Use me.

Rex: I have kids who I pick up at their house on 4th Street in Davenport. Many times I saw a homeless man who would be sitting or sometimes lying on the sidewalk. Often he is shirtless. I've never seen him with a blanket to lay on-just the sidewalk. It seemed when I had

something to share with him, he wouldn't be in his "spot" and when I didn't have something...there he was. I told the kids about him and that I hoped we could help him sometime. Last Sunday (the 22nd) I took the kids thru McDonalds after church. And as we drove past the homeless guy's "spot" there he was. I told the kids I wished I had thought to buy him something from McDonalds. I pulled over and called him over. I asked him his name. It is Rex. He asked if we had any food. Makayla immediately offered him the rest of her fries which he accepted happily. We told him we would be right back. The kids and I headed to the Mother Hubbard's down the street. I told the kids to pick out what they thought he might like and would not need cooking or refrigeration. They did a great job of picking out water, snacks, peanuts, juice, cookies, fruit, canned meat (with easy open lids), cheese and more. Also hand sanitizer. The kids couldn't wait to get back to Rex and give them his bounty. We told him we would be bringing him "stuff" on Tuesday and Thursdays. So today, he was waiting for us in his "spot". The kids were excited to see him again. I told them how proud of them I was and I also shared this verse with them: "And the King will

reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:40

A couple of weeks ago, the Sonshine Kids put together 44 "Goodie Bags" of shampoo, conditioner, bath soap and candy. Then we took them to St. Mary's Health Care on Rusholme in Davenport. The kids loved handing out the bags to the residents and the residents loved the kids. After they handed out the bags, they went to one of the community rooms and sang and danced (yes I said "danced") for the residents. It was fun to watch the kids...at first some of them were a little shy. But pretty soon they were walking up to folks in a wheel chair or sitting at a table. And one lady had told the kids "no thanks", but then she called one of the little girls over. She said she couldn't resist because the little girl was so sweet. Again: "And the King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matt. 25:40

So, there you have it. It's why I do what I do. Thanks for allowing me.

New Online Giving Option — Questions & Answers

- Why do we offer online giving?

We know that physical cash and checks will still be used for many years to come, but a growing number of people desire the automation and consistency that online giving provides. In today's culture many people have become very comfortable and even dependent upon online financial tools. Online giving can also be a tool that can nurture and inspire spiritual growth through giving practices.

- What are the advantages to online giving?

For the most part it's easy, it's convenient, and it's fast. You can use a credit card, a debit card, or an automatic withdrawal from your checking / savings account. Automated giving can also help those who want to become more disciplined and consistent in their giving. In addition to giving to the church general fund, the online giving portal can be used to give to the deacon fund, to pay for books / T-shirts, to give to special offerings, to pay for AWANA registration, etc. Online giving also streamlines the process of depositing and recording done by our financial team.

- Is online giving safe?

It is as safe as using a credit or debit card (and in some cases safer). We have chosen a company that is PCI Level 1 Compliant...the highest level of security available for compa-

nies that process electronic transactions. No CBC staff member or member of any CBC financial team will ever have any of your financial information.

- Can I do recurring transactions?

Absolutely. You can give one time, or you can set up a recurring gift at any interval you choose... weekly, semiweekly, monthly, etc. This is a great way to ensure that your offering is given to the church...even if you are unable to attend services on any given week. It can also help tie your giving to your income...not your church attendance.

- What methods of online giving are offered?

We offer 3 methods of online giving.

1. You can use Text to Give by texting your gift amount to 563-723-0483.
2. You can give through the Cornerstone church app on your mobile device by downloading the Elexio Community App. Once you have it downloaded, you will need to then change the domain name "domain.elexiochms.com" to "cornerstoneeldridge.elexiochms.com"
3. You can give through the church website (cornerstone-eldridge.org or cornerstone-dewitt.org).

Options 2 & 3 will need you to sign in with your Username and Password (Julie Tingle in the church office can get you this information if you don't already have it).

- What if I want to give online but still practice the physical act of placing an offering in the offering plate?

We have provided "I gave online" offering cards in the back of the chairs for those who want to give online, but also want to place something in the offering plate as it passes. These cards can also be used as an example to show children that you are indeed giving to the church when they may not physically see you give online. The cards have a place for your name and address...although filling that part out is not required.

- Am I wrong by thinking that I should place my actual money in the offering plate?

You are not wrong. We encourage you to give in a manner that you are most comfortable. The reality is that checks are no more actual funds than an online giving card...they both represent money, but neither is money in itself. Both processes require electronic transactions within the banking system before the church ultimately has the funds in its possession. Regardless, we want you to be comfortable. If online giving is a tool that you can utilize, great. If it's not for you, that's just fine too.

- I have questions. Who do I contact?

Start with Julie in the church office @ office4cbc@gmail.com or 563-285-8080. She can answer most questions, or she can get you to the person that can.

MOPS - Calling all Moms

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will be starting back up in September. As many of you know this is a wonderful program for moms who have children ages birth through preschool. This program gives women the opportunity to engage with other moms in the community and learn about various topics including raising children, marriage, women's health, etc. all with a focus on Biblical principles. This program not only relies on great leadership to teach and grow these moms spiritually, but also relies on many volunteers to help love on their children while they attend classes. MOPS meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 8:30-10:45 am from September through May. Please contact Sarah Payton at spayton02@gmail.com if you are a mom interested in registering or would like be a volunteer.



Sonshine School Supply Project

It is amazing how fast the summer is going! School will be here before we know it. As you walk into the stores you see the rows and rows of school supplies. The kids are always so excited with their new supplies. Shelly Curry is organizing school supplies for kids that participate in Sonshine ministries.

There are a few different ways that you can help with this project.

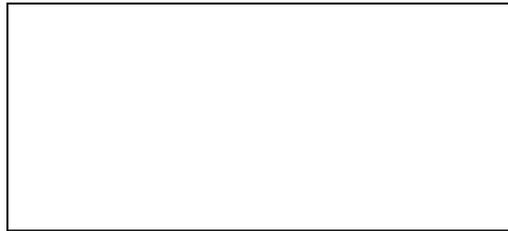
- Take a student shopping with you to buy his/her supplies.
- Give a money donation for supplies to be purchased on your behalf.
- Purchase school supplies and donate them.

Please submit all donations by August 8th. You may give them to Shelly Curry. For questions or if you would be interested in helping in one the ways listed above, contact Shelly at scurry5@yahoo.com or 641-590-3775. Thank you for your support and reaching vulnerable families in Scott county.

775 E. LeClaire Rd.
Box 54
Eldridge, IA 52748

Return Service Requested

STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Eldridge, IA
Permit No. 15



Blueprint for Membership C.L.A.S.S. 101

Sunday, August 5th from 4:00-7:30 p.m.

This class is designed to help you get to know who Cornerstone is and what we believe. It is a very relaxed and enjoyable time together. A free dinner is included.

Come and get to know Pastor Scott and Pastor Mark. Contact the CBC church office at 563-285-8080 to sign up.

Pastoral Staff & Office Hours

The hours for our church office in Eldridge are listed below.

- Monday: 8:00-Noon
- Tuesday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pastors & Staff's normal working days are listed below.

- Pastor Scott: Tuesday– Friday
- Pastor Mark: Tuesday– Friday
- Pastor Steffan: Tuesday– Friday
- Pastor Drew: Monday - Thursday
- Sandy Nass: Tuesday– Friday

Please keep in mind that the office could be closed at any given time during the day based on the pastors' visitation and appointment schedules.

Upcoming S.O.L.I.D. Youth Events

- **Aug 9 6:00 pm Archery & Bonfire Event**
- **Aug 12 12:15 pm SOLID Luncheon**
- **Sept 5 7:00 pm Fall Youth Kickoff**

All Summer on Wednesday Nights

- **Boys Study - contact Conner Ambrosy for details.**
- **Girls Study - 6:30-7:30 pm in Youth Room**

All Summer on Sunday Nights

- **Girls Jr High Study - 6-7 pm in Youth Room**

For both Girls' studies contact Heather Quiroz for details.

Come and join us on Sunday Mornings!

	CBC Eldridge 775 E Le Claire Rd	CBC DeWitt 320 2nd Street
Family Sunday		
School Opportunities	9:45 am	8:45 am
Worship Services	8:15 & 10:45 am	10:00 am