



FIRST CHRONICLES

November, 2021

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Dear Church family,

Fall has arrived and soon, the "W" word... winter. ☺ My family and I have been serving here for about a month and a half and we have had incredible peace at First Baptist Church. Names are coming to mind more smoothly, I'm forgetting things in the service less and less, and we are plugging into the church in every way that we can. We are truly blessed to be here—this is an amazing area to do ministry in and to raise a family. Praise God for His providence!

October 31st marks the 504th anniversary of the Reformation. What is the Reformation? And why is it important? The Reformation started when Martin Luther nailed his "Ninety-five Theses" to the door of a Catholic church. In this document, he described the errors, abuses, and discrepancies of the Catholic church and demonstrated how their practices fell short of God's Word. That moment marked the beginning of a process that split the Protestant churches (out of which came the Baptist denominations) from the Catholic church and led to the revival of the individual responsibility of the believer.

That's a lot of information in one paragraph—but I wanted to give you an overhead view of the Reformation. The following gives a more specific understanding of the beliefs that were challenged:

- 1) One of the false beliefs that Martin Luther challenged was that salvation was the result of works, rituals, and decrees from the church. The Catholic church taught that believers needed to give money, serve, attend mass, and receive an official blessing from the church to be saved. However, the Bible says that we are saved by grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8)! And this salvation is a free gift from God.
- 2) A second false belief surrounded God's Word. The Catholic church taught that the Pope's word was on par with the Bible and if there was disagreement between the two, preference was given to the Pope. They also taught that the average person should not be allowed to read the Bible. They argued that people would misinterpret the Bible and commit "heresy upon heresy." And so, they kept the language of the Bible in Latin, only allowed priests into seminaries, and actually killed anyone that tried to translate the Bible into English (for example, William Tyndale). However, the Bible teaches that Scripture alone is God's Word and that we have a right and responsibility to read and interpret the Scriptures. We are literally told to test what is said by anyone who teaches God's Word (1 Cor. 14:29).
- 3) The last false belief I'll cover in here is that individuals did not have access to God—they had to go through a priest. The Catholic church taught that priests were mediators between God and man—thus, they had the authority to proclaim who was saved and set conditions for the forgiveness of sins. However, the Bible teaches that we are each a part of the royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9). Each believer has direct access to God.

504 years ago, the truth of the Bible was once again made available for all believers to read, study, and understand. Finally, we could know that man is sinful, the result of sin is death, Christ died for our sins, and through belief in Christ we would be saved. I can't imagine a world where this isn't the very air I breathe. We take this knowledge for granted, but at one point, not that long ago, it was brand new to all Christians. I write this for us to see how far we've come. As we enter into a season of thanksgiving, let us pause and give thanks to God that we are no longer under these false beliefs. Let us praise God that we have access to His Word and can have a personal relationship with Him. And let us not take God's Word for granted. Join with me in studying God's Word anew and let's grow in our relationship with God, together!

In Christ,

Jesse



GREETERS

Sunday, November 7
Daryl & Mary Kramer

Sunday, November 14
Dennis & Gracia Schrick

Sunday, November 21
Alan & Terresa Wagenaar

Sunday, November 28
Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar

NURSERY WORKERS

Sunday, November 7
Donna DeBoer

Sunday, November 14
Judy Eben

Sunday, November 21
Katie DeBoer

Sunday, November 28
Rachel Kramer



November

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|----|--|
| 1 | Brandon DeBoer
Kane Spencer |
| 3 | Deb Middendorp
JoAnn Schneiderman
Janice Schneidermann |
| 4 | Hannah Kramer |
| 7 | Josh & Ashley Eben |
| 9 | Stan Fluth
Norman Winter |
| 13 | Rueben Eben |
| 16 | Kane & Brooklyn Spencer |
| 17 | Zac May |
| 18 | Sharilyn Reemtsma |
| 19 | Gloria Villanueva |
| 20 | Bob & Pat Johnson
Ramona Villanueva
Derek Winkowitsch |
| 21 | Cody Johnson |
| 23 | Keith Arends
Brenan Schneidermann |
| 24 | Raymond Arends |
| 25 | Kelly DeBoer
Parker Hayenga |
| 26 | Terrilyn Arends |
| 27 | Tevin Kooiman
Lena Ruddy |
| 30 | Brad & Ashley Van Tubergen |

Thank You So Much

Thank you so much for all your help at the ATLAS Bread of Life food distribution in George last month. You truly are the Hands and Feet of Jesus and we appreciate your service to the Lord.

Thanks Again-

Paul & Kathy Altena, Lynette Kruger, & Crystal deBoer

Thank you everyone for all the cards, visits, and Facebook greetings for my 80th birthday. It meant so much to me. God bless you all.

- Carolyn Wagenaar



Bread of Life

November 17

Please pray for this Ministry!



Gospelink

The Lord has done some amazing things for Ambassador International University (AIU), even in a year like 2020! Many needs were graciously provided as God has poured out His blessing on the university! Here are some highlights:

- The Salama Stove building was built. Previously, villagers would cook over wood in their houses as smoke rose through the thatched roof. Now, AIU constructs the Salama stoves for cooking and heating water while venting exhaust outside of the home. They provide a source of income for the local villagers who are learning to construct them.
- The Hammer Mill was constructed and is used to grind corn into a staple food for the campus and the community.
- Students completed their academic year, many isolated at their homes, using the distance learning curriculum. Thirty electronic notepads were purchased to help the students study remotely from their homes. The seniors were able to graduate on time and COVID-19 did not stop the university from achieving its mission and purpose in providing theological training for the students.
- A new solar system was constructed at the clinic which provides sun-generated power around the clock.
- Six housing units were constructed for medical personnel who will live on campus and work at the clinic.

First Baptist was able to provide funds to help with several of the projects listed above. Please continue to pray for AIU and the students. Continue to pray that we will have another opportunity to help them with their needs.

Mission Board



We will be packing Operation Christmas boxes together as a church on Sunday, November 7 after the service. We hope to see you and your family there! Group 3 will work in the kitchen. Workers, please bring 1 dozen hamburger buns and 1 dozen hotdog buns. We are asking that the congregation bring salads and desserts. We will be having hotdogs, barbeques, and coneys.

Starting November 7, we will begin the evening services at 6:00 pm and continue until the end of the year. We will then revisit it and see if we want to make it permanent.

**Project Warm Up
Sunday, December 5
Following Morning Service
Soup & Pie Luncheon**

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Pack Shoe Boxes & Luncheon 6:00 PM Discipleship U	8	9 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	10 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	11 2:00 PM Good Samaritan Bible Study	12 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	13
14 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Discipleship U	15	16	17 BREAD OF LIFE 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	18	19	20
21 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Baby Dedication 6:00 PM Discipleship U	22	23	24 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	25 THANKSGIVING DAY	26	27
28 ADVENT BEGINS 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Discipleship U	29	30				