



I WILL

give thanks

TO YOU, LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART;
I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS.

- PSALM 9:1 -

FIRST CHRONICLES

November, 2023

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“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” – Matthew 16:24

Discipleship. It’s a word that I’ve written much about in the past—but it has been quite a while since we’ve looked at it. In fact, I haven’t addressed it in a newsletter since this past January! Considering that this is one of the things I’m most passionate about... well, it’s about time I bring it up again. Of course, you may have gotten tired of hearing about discipleship. If you prefer, I could use other words; spiritual formation, Christian living, spiritual growth, following Jesus, becoming mature believers, sanctification, or any other term that connects. Far from being a temporary emphasis, discipleship is what being a Christian is all about, and it’s the primary—if not exclusive—purpose of the church.

One of the illustrations Jesus used to help us understand what it means to follow Him was that we should pick up our cross—as seen in the verse above. For the Christian who fully understands what Jesus went through to purchase salvation for all who would believe, this is a very *vivid* image. The people of Jesus’ day would have been horrified at the idea of carrying a cross. The whole point of the Roman crucifixion punishment was to show the total dominance of Roman authority—the condemned person demonstrated complete submission by having to carry the very instrument that would be used to kill them.

And this is the symbol of discipleship that Jesus places in front of us! Discipleship is intended to be a similar submission of the human life and will to the authority of God—specifically expressed in the Lordship of Jesus. Paul understood this too and reiterated what Jesus said in Galatians 5:24. He says, “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” We need to continually let go of our sin and pursue God. We understood that when we first committed our lives to Christ. That process is meant to be applied every day.

We need to daily acknowledge God’s will and authority in our lives. This produces a growing relationship with Christ. It’s not complicated—we spend time in Scripture, prayer, confession, worship, and evangelism. But it is something that we must do intentionally and consistently. It won’t come naturally. In fact, the things that come naturally are the very things we need God to change. We need God to change our will and desires that don’t do us any good and don’t honor the Lord. This requires picking up a cross.

So be encouraged this month to recommit ourselves to pursuing growth in Christlikeness through discipleship. There’s nothing easy about it. There may be days we want to put our cross down. But we must tarry on—as Christ did for us. And the good news is that the One who bore the cross to Calvary will be the One who strengthens us to persevere. Rely on Him. Trust in Him. Hope in Him—and we will find ourselves looking more like Christ every day.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
Sunday, November 5 Janice Schneidermann	Sunday, November 5 Terresa Wagenaar
Sunday, November 12 Dennis & Gracia Schrick	Sunday, November 12 Donna DeBoer
Sunday, November 19 Alan & Terresa Wagenaar	Sunday, November 19 Katie DeBoer
Sunday, November 26 Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar	Sunday, November 26 Kody den Hoed

Thank You So Much

We would like to express our sincere Thank You to 1st Baptist Church for all your prayer support for our mother, Darlene Blik, following Arie's death and moving Mom closer to us, though only for a short 3 1/2 months. Thank you for the cards and flowers from the church. We would like to also thank the ladies that provided food and served the family before visitation and also at the luncheon after the service. A special Thank You to Pastor Jesse for your part in the service. We KNOW that "seeds" were planted and we pray they will come to fruition. Every loss of a loved one in Christ is also a celebration. For in the pain of saying goodbye also comes the realization that Jesus has greeted our loved one with "Welcome Home". -Alan & Terresa Wagenaar, Dennis & Lori Heemstra, Clayton & Jodi Wagenaar & Families

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers through my knee surgery process. Thank you also for the card and gift card. I am recovering well and appreciate your prayers and support.
-Nicole Kooiker

Thank you for all of your thoughts, prayers, flowers, and food throughout this difficult time. We are forever grateful for this church and the true family it has become over the many years. In all things we know that God is good. May God bless each of you and your families. - Bob & Pat Johnson Family



November	1	Brandon DeBoer Kane Spencer
	2	Joni Reemtsma
	3	Janice Schneidermann JoAnn Schneiderman
	4	Hannah Kramer
	6	Paisley Winkowitsch
	7	Josh & Ashley Eben
	9	Norman Winter
	11	Carla Eklund
	13	Rueben Eben
	16	Kane & Brooklyn Spencer
	18	Sharilyn Reemtsma
	19	Gloria Beyer
	20	Ramona Villanueva Derek Winkowitsch
	22	Meti Imeri
	23	Keith Arends Brenan Schneidermann
	25	Kelly DeBoer Parker Hayenga
	26	Gloria & Matthew Beyer Terrilyn Arends Ava Reemtsma
	27	Eric Gruis Lena Ruddy
	30	Brad & Ashley Van Tubergen Alexandria Christians



Harlan and Patricia Moss

Harlan Moss is the Chaplain at the South Dakota State Penitentiary.

The Good Shepherd goes after the lost sheep and brings it into His fold! We do not know who will trust Christ as their Savior. Our part is to sow the seed of the gospel, not knowing if the seed is falling on good soil or stony ground. This is exactly what Harlan does each day and week.

Harlan has shared how inmates are excited to speak with him on how they have proudly memorized a verse or two and what it meant to them. Some of his inmates share that they don't understand how they are still alive due to the life that they have lived. Harlan then shares how God watches over each of us and works to lead us in the right direction even after they have ended up in prison. When an inmate asks which religion is the right one, Harlan explains that Only Christianity has a risen Savior, and that Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Continue praying for Harlan as he visits the different areas of the prison and prisoners sharing the Word with them. Pray that his time spent with individuals will have a lasting and positive effect.

Mission Board.



- We are looking for Project Warm Up fleece donations. Please bring the fleece to church by Sunday, November 11, so that it can get cut. Each blanket will take 2 pieces of material that are $1 \frac{1}{2}$ yards each to cut and tie together. On Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00, we will be cutting the fleece. We would love any extra help to come and bring their scissors.
- We will be packing boxes for Operation Christmas Boxes after church on Sunday, November 12 after a soup and pie lunch. If you have any other donations, please refer to the list sent out/in the newsletter. We hope to pack 100 boxes! Group 5 is asked to work in the kitchen.
- Christmas Program practice will start on November 26