



FIRST CHRONICLES

May, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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“‘And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”’ – Luke 19:39-40

I love to worship. Throughout my life, worship has always been something that I’ve loved to do. It didn’t matter what style of worship it was—as long as it praised God and spoke truth, I was there. I would open the hymnals and sing parts. I would play drums in the praise band. I would lift my voice in praise (as long as the microphone was turned down, of course ☺) In whatever way I could participate in worship, I would. God worked through my love of worship to place me in my first two ministry positions as a worship pastor. He has grown and cultivated this love throughout my life. Thankfully, no one ever tried to keep me from worship.

As we continue to focus on what it means to glorify God, we’ve seen that for the people of the Old Testament, glorifying God was a weighty thing. It was weighty because they had to recognize their sin to see God’s holiness. For the New Testament people, glorifying God was marked by freedom because of the salvation God offers us. But throughout the Bible, one thing remained the same: God’s glory prompts a response. God’s glory must be recognized.

We see this in the surrounding passage of the verses quoted above. The disciples were praising God for all that they had seen. Jesus was on his way into Jerusalem for the final week of his ministry and there were loud shouts saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38). But the Pharisees wanted to stop it. They wanted to keep the people from worshipping God. They were actively trying to stop the crowd from glorifying God!

But instead of rebuking the disciples like He was asked to do, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees instead. He tells them that if the people failed to glorify God, creation itself would take up the responsibility. This response was meant to critique the Pharisees—by refusing to glorify God in that moment, they were acting worse than the inanimate objects upon which they walked. Not only the crowd, but the rocks would witness against the Pharisees for their actions.

If we were to look at our own lives, what would we see? Are we actively glorifying God? Or are we actively refusing to glorify God? Are we purposefully praising Him in our words and actions? Or are we trying to keep others from praising Him? Or are we somewhere in the middle—are we complacent and apathetic in how we glorify God? If we looked at our lives, what would we see?

The encouragement this month is to actively glorify God. Let’s not be like the Pharisees. Let’s not leave it to the rocks. Let’s not allow anyone to keep us from glorifying God. We have been given a great privilege and honor as believers. We get to glorify God! *To God be the glory—great things He has done!*

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS
Sunday, May 5 Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	Sunday, May 5 Rachel Kramer
Sunday, May 12 Jim & Sharon Douglass	Sunday, May 12 Gerri Spangler
Sunday, May 19 Bryan & Rachel Kramer	Sunday, May 19 Terresa Wagenaar
Sunday, May 26 Darren & Julie Kramer	Sunday, May 26 Donna DeBoer

Congratulations 2024 Graduate!

**Alexis Meyer
Central Lyon**





“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Mark 2:17)

From Prison Lighthouse Ministry: “Jesus makes it clear that when people think they will go to heaven because of their good deeds, they are mistaken. He is near to those who are broken in spirit and who realize they have sinned against a holy God. As a believer we realize that there is no hope for us apart from Jesus Christ! The Lord has compassion on those who were looked down on by society. Some of those I work with have recognized their hopelessness apart from Jesus Christ!” (Harlan Moss, Prison Lighthouse Fellowship, South Dakota Prison Chaplain)

In Harlan’s recent newsletter he mentions several men he has ministered to. Some have turned to Christ, others are still struggling. Continue to pray for God’s presence in the prison. There is much negativity and unrest at the present time.

Mission board



May	1	Kory & Dawn Hayenga Mary Eben
	4	Paul Reemtsma
	5	Caleb Johnson
	6	Linda Arends
	10	Harlan & LeAnn Doeden Sara Johnson Donna Shelly
	13	Herm & Linda Christians Dan & Jodi DeGroot
	16	Harold Eben
	17	Landon Reck
	18	Gloria Kruse Kim Winkowitsch
	19	Abby Kramer
	23	Brandon & Katie DeBoer Jeff & Cindy Eben Timothy Kramer
	26	Sharon DeBoer Samuel Kramer
	29	Kricket Arends



Thank you to everyone who helped in Awana! It was a blessing to have such a great number of kids, but not possible without the faithfulness of willing and consistent leaders and prayer warriors. Thank you and may God richly bless each one of you. - Donna & Judy

**A friendly smile, a casual touch. These are the things that mean so much. To know you are with us in our time of sorrow. Sharing our prayers, today and tomorrow. God gives us comfort in the form of good friends. May His peace be with you. His love never ends.
Thank you, The family of Sheila Haspels**

Clay and I would like to thank you for your continued prayers and thoughtfulness. God Bless! Love, Clay & Deb Hansman

Whether you kept us in your thoughts, sent a lovely arrangement, made a memorial donation, or helped us in any way, please know that your love and kindness has brought us great comfort and will always be remembered. - The Family of Ed Kruse