



FIRST CHRONICLES

May, 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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“For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.” – 2 Samuel 22:40

Have you ever felt like you were under spiritual attack? I have. There are seasons of life where there seems to be a darkness hovering over me, where temptations are more frequent and more powerful, where frustrations, stresses, and burdens are greater, and I feel completely exhausted. It’s during these times that it feels harder to engage in worship. I find more excuses to not share the Gospel with other people. I feel drawn away from reading the Bible and praying to God. And yet, it’s during these times especially that we need to draw closer to God.

Make no mistake about it, we are constantly in a spiritual battle—whether we are aware of it or not. But we are not abandoned to this battle. God is right there with us. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” God fights for us. He delivers us and preserves us. King David knew this. Throughout his life, he relied on God to fight his battles and to deliver him from his enemies. This is why he is able to praise God when He delivered him from his enemies and from the hand of Saul with the words above. God equipped him with strength for the battle. Just as God equipped David, he equips us as well. But unlike David who fought physical enemies, our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, cosmic powers over this present darkness, and spiritual forces of evil. Thus, God equips us differently. We see this equipment for battle in Ephesians 6:13-18.

It says, “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication...” This equipment is vitally important for our faith in—and walk with—God. The spiritual forces of evil will try everything to tear us away from Christ. God knows this—and so He equips us to withstand the attack and to stand firm.

We are equipped with the belt of truth. We need truth because this is the first thing the devil attacks. He is the father of lies. If he can get us to doubt the truth, then the rest of our armor will weaken. It is the belt of truth that binds the rest of the armor together. We are equipped with the breastplate of righteousness. This isn’t our righteousness with which we are equipped. Isaiah 64:6 says, “all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.” No, it is Jesus’ righteousness that we wear—a perfect righteousness that we are clothed in only when we place our faith and trust in Christ. We are equipped with shoes of readiness. This readiness is given by the gospel of peace. It is especially under spiritual attack that we need to share the Gospel. By doing so, we will remind ourselves of the fact that we are saved and will be kept secure by God’s great power.

We are equipped with the shield of faith. This faith is in Christ—in His work to save us, in His promise to forgive us, and in the hope of eternal life with Him. By this faith, we will resist all the things that evil will hurl at us. We are given the helmet of salvation—it is God’s saving work that will protect our minds and fill our thoughts. And finally, we are given the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. The Bible is our only instrument of attack. Everything else is defensive in nature. We need to know God’s Word so that we can counter the devil’s lies.

This is a quick overview, but it reminds us of an important point—we need to be equipped and we need to use our equipping. God has provided us with armor to resist evil and to stand firm. This month, be encouraged to put this on daily, “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” Do this and we will be able to stand firm.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Sunday, May 4 Greg & Sharon DeBoer	Sunday, May 4 Alyssa den Hoed	Sunday, May 4 Abby Kramer
Sunday, May 11 Stan & Crystal deBoer Judy Eben	Sunday, May 11 Judy Eben	Sunday, May 11 Sarah Gruis
Sunday, May 18 Jim & Sharon Douglass	Sunday, May 18 Donna DeBoer	Sunday, May 18 Katie DeBoer
Sunday, May 25 Bryan & Rachel Kramer	Sunday, May 25 Terresa Wagenaar	Sunday, May 25 Rachel Kramer



Cherish House of Milford, IA provides mothers and their children with a safe and supportive home. The Cherish House wants their residents to not only feel comfortable but also excited about their future. At the Cherish House women have the space to explore what the future could look like, access to experienced and supportive staff, counselors and mentors, as well as tools to help them grow.

Some services provided include transportation to Cherish House or doctor appointments, counseling, family support, adoption support by partnering with adoption agencies, thrift store, etc.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is the longest running fundraiser that provides awareness to the Cherish Center and financial support to the Cherish House. Empty baby bottles are given to churches, businesses and service clubs during specific months to collect pocket change, cash or checks. The money collected makes a difference in the lives of pregnant women and parenting mothers of young children they serve.

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
	15	Lanelle Wang
	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 Nicole Kramer



Vacation Bible School will be June 8-13 from 5:00 - 7:40 pm.
Forms were handed out in Awana and are due back April 9.
VBS is for ages 4-going into 6th grade.
Anyone who is older may volunteer to help!

There will be a volunteer meeting after church on May 4th.
VBS is looking for donations, especially for lunch. If you are interested in helping in any way,
whether by donating money or specific items, please check the list in the church foyer.
If you have any questions, you can contact Rachel Kramer.

FBC Ladies Night
Tuesday, May 13 @ 7:00 pm
We will be putting together Cancer/Care Bags.
There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for items needed.

We are scheduled to help with the GLR Bread of Life and Food Pantry at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in George on May 28. Please be there by 4:30 pm.
There is a sign-up in the Foyer.



Cole den Hoed
(Central Lyon High School)

Hi, my name is Cole den Hoed. I attend Central Lyon High School in Rock Rapids. I was involved in many things over my 4 years of high school, such as FFA, golf, and football manager. I very much enjoyed these things during my past time.

My plan after graduation is to work another summer at Village Creek Bible Camp before going to work in the electrical field.

I would like to thank all of you for all your guidance and support during my high school years and ask for you to continue after high school.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6

CONGRATULATIONS COLE!

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Sternke Piano Recital
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Graduation Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM VBS Leaders Meeting 6:30 PM Discipleship U	5	6	7 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	8	9 7:00 PM Union Gospel Mission	10
11 Mother's Day 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Baccalaureate	12	13 7:00 PM Ladies Night 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	14 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	15	16	17 4-7:00 pm Cole den Hoed Graduation Open House
18 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM All Boards Meeting 2:00 PM Graduation	19	20	21 6:30 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Discipleship U Bday/Anniv Celeb	26 Memorial Day	27	28 5:00 PM Bread of Life FBC Serve	29	30	31