



# Cornerstone Connection

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 10

APRIL 2017

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 1 8:30 am-5:00 pm Iron Sharpens Iron @ Harvest Chapel
- April 2 AM Communion
- April 4 Mops
- April 6 Ladies Noon Luncheon @ Famous Dave's
- April 11 Chris Tomlin Worship Night @ iWireless Center
- April 13 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service @ DeWitt Campus
- April 14 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. Ann Catholic Church
- April 15 7:30 am Trustee Meeting; 9:00 am Hayward Baby Shower @ DeWitt Campus
- April 16 Easter Sunday Services @ both Campuses, No Sunday School or ABF's
- April 18 MOPS
- April 20 7:00 pm Missions Meeting
- April 21-22 Elder Retreat
- April 23 5:00 pm Annual Meeting & Potluck
- April 30 SOLID Luncheon Fundraiser

## Pastor Scott's Perspective—"Well Done, Cornerstone"

Few things are more gratifying to a pastor than seeing a church family springing into loving action and serving in love with their spiritual gifts and functioning as the body of Christ under the leading and coordination of the Holy Spirit. I have been so impressed with our Cornerstone body in recent weeks, especially last weekend with Francis Nass' visitation and funeral.

Several people in our community have commented favorably on how well we hosted the visitation last Friday night with over 1000 people coming through our doors. And then to turn around and host 600 people for the funeral with a full sanctuary and full ROCK Center, and then to turn around and reconfigure the ROCK for the lunch. And then get ready for Sunday worship with strong attendance of over 400.

Parking hosts in bad weather, traffic officers, greeters and hosts throughout the building on Friday night, ROCK Center seating organizers to keep the line running smoothly and orderly, getting the ROCK equipped for simulcast, ushers to facilitate seating with a full house, ROCK

Center set up, re-set up and take down, meal preparation, worship team and media & sound, passionate worshipers, prayer counselors, comforters, encouragers, alert members getting names of those standing up in response to

**The spiritual harvest we witnessed at the conclusion of the Gospel message on Saturday was the result of the body of Christ coming together to serve as God intended the body of Christ to function.**

the Gospel message. Not to mention those who filled Room 216 the previous Wednesday night to pray for the Nass family and myself and to pray for a spiritual harvest – which we certainly saw on Saturday. And not to mention all those giving so generously on Sunday to help with the funeral expenses and medical bills.

**So many people serving in so many different ways with so many spiritual gifts.** 1 Corin-

thians 12 in action: *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

The spiritual harvest we witnessed at the conclusion of the Gospel message on Saturday was the result of the body of Christ coming together to serve as God intended the body of Christ to function.

**Cornerstone:** Paul's words to the Thessalonians express my feelings well: *For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.* (1 Thess. 2:19-20)

And now for something completely different: a word about my upcoming sabbatical.

Sabbaticals are purposeful but not "goal-oriented." They are about input, not output. It is based on the biblical principle for both people and land that input

*(continued on Page 2)*

## A Word From Pastor Mark

One of my favorite places to go to experience God's presence and power is the ocean. The ocean's waves speak of God's unpredictable and powerful nature. The ocean brings me back to realization that God is God and I am not.

I believe God has started a wave of momentum in our church. I

believe God is doing something special that we want to join Him in. In the past few months, God has been bringing people to Christ through one-on-one evangelism and through several funerals. We are seeing people turning to Christ in a way that has not happened in a long time. I am seeing what Jesus has been saying for 2,000 years. Matthew

9:36–38 (ESV), "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;<sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into

*(continued on Page 3)*

## Young at Heart

Join us for our Soup Luncheon & Service Project on April 18th at 11:30 a.m. at CBC Eldridge Campus



## Pastor Scott's Perspective (continued)

is essential to output. That is especially true in doing work that best flows from a healthy soul. Sabbaticals can be regarded as being "purposefully non-productive." Learning or experiencing things having nothing to do with weekly responsibilities – yet enriching the soul and deepening one's walk with God. Spending time with God for my soul's sake, not for next week's sermon – to grow a love relationship, not to fulfill an assignment.

Spiritual health or a healthy soul is not a requirement for most jobs. It can be neglected in pastoral ministry for a season, but eventually it will impact a pastor's ministry. Pastoral ministry is not just a matter of working harder or even working smarter. It is a matter of abiding in Christ and remaining connected to God in authentic intimacy. It requires spending time in the Lord's presence and listening to the Lord in addition to doing, working, producing.

A sabbatical typically includes time for travel, rest, prayer, study, recreation, learning, new experiences, reflecting, and soul-care. More purposeful than a vacation, it is an extended time for a pastor to distance himself from the demands of leadership, preaching and pastoral care in order to gain fresh vision and energy and perspective. A time for drawing near to God and nourishing the soul for an ex-

tended period of time apart from sermon preparation and pastoral responsibilities.

The dates of my sabbatical are April 27 – June 4. My plans include the following: *A 16-day tour (with Beth) May 2-17 of Israel, Turkey and Greece (steps of Jesus in Israel and steps of Paul in Turkey and Greece); a week in a cabin in the Colorado mountains (with Beth); a weekend with Erika and family in Denver (hearing Kyle preach); 2-3 days at a spiritual retreat center near Cedar Rapids (alone, without Beth) – at the beginning or end of my sabbatical (or maybe both).*

The congregation will be well taken care of in my absence. We are blessed with four other capable pastors on our staff. They are eager for opportunities to preach in my absence. Pulpit supply will not be a problem. My sabbatical will be good for their growth and development, and the congregation will benefit from that as well. I am confident they will be able to handle any situations that may arise during my absence.

Each pastor will preach once or twice the six Sundays I'm gone (April 30 – June 4), and then Roman Citac will preach June 11 (following VBS). As Associate Pastor in Eldridge, Pastor Steffan will be lead pastor and head of the pastoral staff in my absence (with Pastor Mark leading in DeWitt). **And our con-**

**gregational care and crisis care teams have proven this past weekend that they are fully capable of assisting in any pastoral care needs that arise.**

I realize that many other people work hard and get fatigued in their jobs and need vacations. But the distinctive characteristic of pastoral ministry is that visible fruit comes from hidden depths. Our best work comes not just from our mind or body or education – but from our soul connection with God. This requires "non-productive effort." I take a day off every week and have a daily quiet time, but unhurried time with the Lord not connected to pastoral responsibilities is rare for me. A sabbatical provides the opportunity for an extended break from normal activities – not a vacation – but purposeful resting, learning, experiencing and spiritual input that I believe will lead to future fruitfulness in my ministry and positive benefits for the church. **I am deeply grateful to the Elders and the church body for this opportunity.**

## Family News

Congratulations to Jake & Caitlin Hayward on the birth of their new little boy, Miles Jacob, born on February 18th, weighing 7 lbs, 12 oz, and 20 inches long.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the following families for the loss of their loved ones:  
Leilana Keeney on the loss of her husband, Howard.  
Jerry & Lora Nigh on the loss of Jerry's father, Donald.  
Pastor Steffan & Sandy Nass on the loss of their son, Francis.

## A Word From Pastor Mark *(continued)*

his harvest.” The harvest is plentiful. It is ripe and ready- it is just waiting for workers- for believers to help in the harvest.

**As we turn our attention on Easter, be confident that there are people eager to join you at church. They are curious and open to the good news. There are even some that just need to be asked to trust in Christ.** I saw that happen not too long ago. A young woman didn’t understand the gospel. She knew the name of Jesus but not the connection to being the Savior. After taking some time explaining the gospel she eagerly accepted Jesus as her Savior and Lord. That is just one example. **Family - step out in faith and see God bless that decision.**

Since CBCDWT’s inception, the scripture that we have been claiming and trusting God to do I believe is beginning to be answered. Galatians 6:9–10 (ESV), “And let us not grow weary of doing good, **for in due season** we will **reap**, if we do not give up.”<sup>10</sup> So

then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Jesus is desirable. He is wanted. Some people know who He is and need someone to help them to trust in Him. Others don’t know yet who He is but have an open heart to Him. What part will you play in seeing the lost won to Christ? As an Ambassador it is our privilege and obligation to take part in this wave of momentum. 2 Corinthians 5:19–21 (ESV), “That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Is anybody going to be in heaven because of you?

## Church Financial Report

Giving to the General Fund (church budget) during the month of March averaged \$15,551 per Sunday (compared to budget of \$15,863). A new fiscal year begins April 1. A generous Deacon fund offering was also received in addition to continued good giving to the Capital Funds Campaign.

Also as a reminder, the Dewitt Pledge Campaign has now reached the 75% mark. To date, \$123,633.48 of the \$136,000 has been received. If you would like to know the status of your pledge, feel free to contact the church office at 563-285-8080.

*Thank you and God bless you for your faithful giving to the Lord’s work at Cornerstone.*

## SERVE Fest Schedule

Please join the CBC family as we serve our communities. Our schedule for Sunday, May 7:

- **8:30 - 9:15 a.m.—Worship services at both Eldridge & DeWitt campuses**
- **9:30 - 11:45 a.m.—Serve**
- **Noon—Meet back at CBC Eldridge Campus for lunch**



***Save the Date!***  
***National Day of Prayer***

## Pastor Steffan’s Reckless Obedience

**GOD IS GOOD.**

MY FLESH AND MY HEART MAY FAIL,  
— but —  
GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART AND MY PORTION FOREVER.  
*Psalm 73:26*

## April Food Pantry

**"Fruit, canned meat, canned meals (examples ravioli, spaghetti 0's, Dinty Moore hearty meals, LaChoy meals)."**

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

**Thank you!**



## Pastor Drew's Webb of Worship

The funeral for Francis Nass had the potential to be the most difficult service at which I've ever led worship. On numerous occasions I've been handed the privilege of ministering in song at a funeral. Some funerals, as you might expect, are easier than others. It's never easy to say "bye" to someone, but saying "bye" to someone who has lived a nice full life is much easier to process and understand than it is to say "bye" to a young person or child. When a child dies the emotions are amplified. Such deaths don't make sense and we struggle to process how such a thing could happen. The question of "why?" will often pop into our head as we endeavor to wrap our minds around such tragic loss.

Thus, Francis' passing had the potential to be extremely difficult. In one sense, I knew that it would be difficult to process as well as there would be a difficulty in ministering in song to the church body and all those who would be present at the funeral.

Pastor Steffan and Sandy asked me to lead worship at the service. They weren't just asking for me to minister in song - as I have done many times before - but for me to help make that Saturday's funeral service as much like a Sunday morning worship service as possible. This knowledge certainly gave me a bit of peace through the whole process. How should the service go? What should we sing as worship back to God on this occasion? These questions ran through my mind as I began to contemplate how to proceed with such a service.

In the few days and hours leading up to the service I had a bit of excitement for what God was going to do in the service and how He was going to impact

people through Francis' passing. I'm not just talking musically, but spiritually.

With the task set before us, the worship team and I stepped up to the plate in anxious anticipation to experience the working of the Holy Spirit through our musical offering to Him. In rehearsal that morning there was a definite sense that God had something special in store for the service to come an hour later. While the service began with a somber note it did not remain so. Pastor Scott's encouragement to many of us during the week to help make it a worship service was heeded by all.

As we all began singing *How Great Thou Art* I began to wonder if this funeral service might be different from others. It's fairly commonplace to hear that song at a funeral, but there was an energy - dare I say joy - in the place that morning. Hearts were ready to express worship in song to our Great and Mighty God.

However, during the next song (Revelation Song) I had a saddening realization - only about half of those attending the service in the sanctuary were singing. I became acutely aware of the fact that there were many more lost people in our midst than I had realized. As I looked out over the congregation there were a number of blank faces seemingly expressing the idea "how do you have smiles on your faces in such a sad time?" For me, THIS was the hardest part of the entire service. I wanted all of our guests to experience the joy of salvation, the joy of knowing the Creator of the universe, the joy of being in submission to Jesus Christ. All I could do in that moment was help them see how others - namely Pastor

Steffan and Sandy - experience that joy.

We, the body of Christ, worshiped in song wholeheartedly that morning! The Spirit's presence was very real and palpable and I know that the lost among us experienced something they have never experienced before - joy in a time of what could have been great sadness.

Afterwards I looked back on the service to consider how it had gone. I knew that it had made Pastor Steffan and Sandy happy (making the family happy is always a goal of mine when ministering in song at a funeral) but most importantly I had a sense that the worship of God's people that morning made the Father happy. The vibrancy of the Spirit's presence in our service and in the hearts of many of those attending truly made the service one of the easiest services I've ever attended and had the privilege of leading worship at. When you find yourself enraptured by God's power, greatness, and sacrifice then the heart is inclined to adopt a position of submission under Him, awe for Him, and an attitude of thanksgiving to Him.

Thank you to Pastor Steffan and Sandy for being our worship leaders. Yes, the Holy Spirit was the one moving but all were looking to Pastor Steffan and Sandy to see how they would respond to this trial. As they responded with hearts of worship the rest of us were able to follow - into God's presence.

## Hideyo's Hopes & Happenings: Leave an "EVERLASTING" mark...



The above pictures of Dare2Share: Chicago 2017, are evidence of the last ever Dare2Share Evangelism Training conference! As you can see, the youth and I: had a great time, saw a great worship concert, and got great teaching on how to “dare to share our Christian faith with those around us.” And, with such rousing results... one might wonder: “Why stop a ‘great’ thing...?”

The answer to that question, for Dare2Share’s creator & CEO: Greg Stier, was rather simple... a “great thing” with “great results” is but worthless rags if it’s greatness is not “EVERLASTING...” If Dare2Share is no longer leaving an “eternal & heavenly mark” on the Christian church, and the youth within Christianity... then the time has come for Dare2Share to stop. D2S’s CEO: Greg Stier looked at it this way, pouring his and our time & money into: bands, conferences, concert halls, and an evangelism discipleship retreat weekend, if they bear little to no spiritual fruit, is both “fiscally” and “spiritually” irresponsible, and may even be sinful, since we Christians are called to be “good stewards” of the church’s resources. Jesus said it Himself, “Do not give to dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them under foot...” (Matt. 7:6)

This, and an illustration used at Dare2Share, plus a conversation with a youth parent, got me thinking... One of the D2S speakers was talking about how some dude got into the world record books by being the 1<sup>st</sup> man ever to use a motor-cross dirt-bike to surf a monster wave in the ocean. It is in the background of the largest picture above. This dirt-bike surfing record breaking event was pretty cool, and cost a lot of time & money to pull off, but was it worth it?

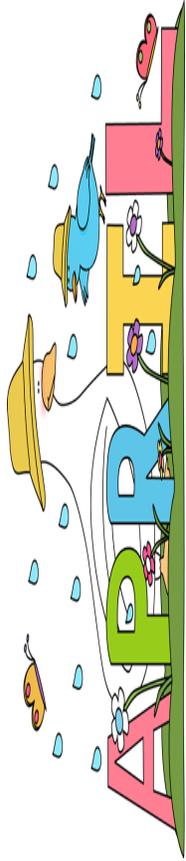
A parent of a high school athlete once told me how much it basically cost to have his youth participate in school, league, & summer sports, all year round (registrations, travel, equipment, camps, etc.). He said if he had multiplied that by every year his child played, from early childhood on, trying to earn a college scholarship, which is a rarity... and compare that to putting the same money away each year into a high yield CD or college investment program... the saved/ invested money would exceed most average athletic scholarships, which most high school athletes fail to receive, by the time his child was ready to graduate.

So, this all boils down to this... is the time & money you spend, either on or for your youth’s activities, yielding “eternal, spiritual & heavenly results?” **Are the countless hours spent pursuing great, but ultimately and only “earthly” results worth the lost investment into your youth’s spiritual and eternal future?** Is too much of a good or great thing still good or great?

Lastly, if you would like to invest a little more into the eternal and heavenly futures and fruit for your or other youth... Our Annual SOLID Youth Fundraiser to raise funds for our youth’s summer mission trips, camps, and ministry will be Sunday April 30. Don’t miss a chance to affect someone’s eternity this summer in a positive and EVERLASTING way!

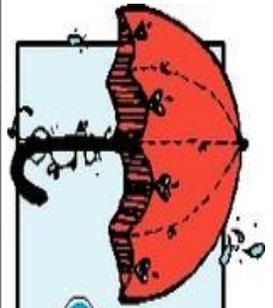
### Upcoming Youth Events

- ◇ April 30— Spring Fundraiser
- ◇ Month of May 2017—Unity Games both DeWitt & Eldridge
- ◇ June 3-9 Bahamas 2017 International Mission Trip
- ◇ June 25-30 Trout Lake Camp— Senior High (Gr. 9-12)
- ◇ June 18-23 Pine Lake Camp— Teens (Gr. 6-8)
- ◇ July 9-14 Pine Lake Camp—Young Teens (Gr. 5-7)
- ◇ July 9-14 Stateside Mission Trip



# 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Activity Calendar</b>						
2 AM Communion 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Pastor Scott Preaching (E) Pastor Mark Preaching (DW) 6:00 pm FPU 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (DW)	3 Annual Reports Due	4 8:45-10:45 am MOPS	5 6:30 am Men meet @ Denny's, NW Blvd., Dav. 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 6:45 pm Bible Study & Prayer (E) 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (E)	6 9:00 am Women's Bible Study @ QC Prayer Center Noon Ladies Luncheon @ Sam's Diner 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball	7	8 8:30 am-5:00 pm Iron Sharpens Iron @ Harvest Chapel
9 Nurse office Open 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Pastor Scott Preaching 6:00 pm FPU 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (DW)	10	11 Chris Tomlin @ iWireless Center, purchase tickets @ <a href="http://WWW.KLOVE.COM/WORSHIP">WWW.KLOVE.COM/WORSHIP</a> or <a href="http://WWW.AIR.COM/WORSHIP">WWW.AIR.COM/WORSHIP</a>	12 6:30 am Men meet @ Denny's, NW Blvd., Dav. 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 6:45 pm Bible Study & Prayer (E) 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (E)	13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study @ QC Prayer Center 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday @ DeWitt Campus	14 7:00 pm Good Friday Services at St. Ann Catholic Church	15 7:30 am Trustee Meeting 9:00 am Baby Shower for Caitlin Hayward @ DeWitt Campus
16 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Pastor Scott Preaching (E) Pastor Mark Preaching (DW) 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (DW)	17	18 8:45-10:45 am MOPS 11:30 am Young @ Heart—Soup Luncheon & Service Project	19 6:30 am Men meet @ Denny's, NW Blvd., Dav. 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 6:45 pm Bible Study & Prayer (E) 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (E)	20 9:00 am Women's Bible Study @ QC Prayer Center 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball 7:00 pm Missions Meeting	21 Elder Retreat (21-22)	22
23 Nurse office Open 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Pastor Scott Preaching 5:00 pm Annual Meeting & Podluc No SOLID Youth (DW)	24 Newsletter Articles Due	25	26 6:30 am Men meet @ Denny's, NW Blvd., Dav. 6:30 pm Prayer (DW) 6:45 pm Bible Study & Prayer (E) 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (E)	27 9:00 am Women's Bible Study @ QC Prayer Center 6:30 pm Coed Volleyball	28	29
30 7:45-8:10 am Prayer Pastor Drew Preaching SOLID Luncheon FundRaiser 6:00 pm FPU 7:00 pm SOLID Youth (DW)						



# April

# 2017

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Emma Gage John Hawley Jason & Mickey Owens
2 Darlene Arana Isabella Ingwersen Jake Salowitz Monica Sissel	3 Dan Holtz Melissa Holtz	4	5 Trisha Poole	6 Angelique Graham	7 John Arter	8 Katie Gainer
9	10 Mike Bearcraft Everett Christenson David Nass Sheri Wilford	11 Sharon Hojnacki Dawnetta Van Ee	12 Kris Proctor Dick & Lee Swanson	13	14 Clint Burklow Jake Hayward Matthew Simmons	15 Samson Ranfield Nora Salowitz Dylan Wheeler
16 Tammy Bullock	17 Cassidy Cook Kayla Christenson	18	19 Sally Howell	20 George Rae Arndt	21 Nicole Arndt	22
23 Melissa Chapman	24 Larry Crotty Jessica Hasenmiller Betsy Loehr	25 Alexander Owens	26 Judith Holt	27 Alexander Hasenmiller Neal Keppy Braden Kuster	28 Christy Runge	29 Jacob Bailey Grace Bustron Brittany Bullock Jackson Trotter
30						

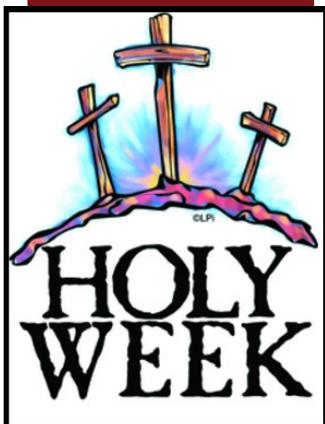
## Cornerstone Kids' Connection, by Sandy Nass, DDCM

On Wednesday, March 22nd, the Nass family met with Pastor Scott to talk about Francis' life. It was a bitter-sweet meeting with both laughter and tears. One thing Pastor Scott wanted us to tell him about was Francis' faith formation. We talked about how David and Francis' grand-mother in Uganda had told them about God, but David added that they'd learned a lot about Jesus' mother, Mary, in Uganda, but didn't learn much about Jesus. When they got here they learned about Jesus and in their small groups in Sunday School they talked about Jesus and were able to ask questions.

Thank you to all who are committed to answering our kids' questions during Sunday School and Jr. Church, during AWANA, Student Studies, and VBS. I know there are days when teachers leave church thinking, "Oh my goodness, what a disaster!" But, you are making an eternal impact. Thank you.

Also ~

VBS will be here before we know it, June 5 - 9. Be on the lookout for registration, volunteer and donation opportunities.



### Holy Week Services

#### **Maundy Thursday, April 13th**

**7:00 pm** Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion at CBC DeWitt Campus

#### **Good Friday, April 14th**

**7:00 pm** North Scott Community Good Friday Service at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Long Grove. This is a time when some of our pastoral staff join with other pastors in the North Scott area to lead a worship service in which we remember Christ's sacrifice for us. Scripture readings about Peter and his experiences leading up to Christ's crucifixion will be highlighted. This is always a wonderfully meaningful service to participate in before the joy of resurrection Sunday morning.

#### **Easter Sunday, April 16th**

##### **Eldridge Campus**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m.** Easter Worship Service

**9:45 am** Light Easter Breakfast and Fellowship, ROCK Center - no SS or ABFs

##### **DeWitt Campus**

**8:45 am** Light Easter Breakfast and fellowship —no SS or ABFs

**10:00 am** Easter Worship Service

Please come early for the Easter Worship Services to help with parking and seating congestion. Regular Eldridge attenders in good health: please **park in the former**

**Mel Foster lot** or the lots near the annex to make more room for guests and those needing to park closer to the building.

**There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but there will be Jr. Church as usual.**

### Annual S.O.L.I.D. Luncheon Fundraiser

Join us on Sunday, April 30th for our Spring Fundraiser Luncheon and Dessert Auction.

We will be having two seatings for you to pick from:

Seating #1—10:45 am (after ABF/SS)

Seating #2—12:30 pm (after 2nd Service)



This is a family-friendly event with food options for all (including those with gluten-sensitivities). No reservations are needed and there is no cost for the meal—but your donations are very much appreciated!

Your lunch will be served by our very own CBC Youth and all proceeds go towards their upcoming youth trips including the International Mission Trip to the Bahamas on June 3-9 and our stateside Mission Trip in the QC area July 9-14.

Thank you for your support & we hope to see you there!

### Prayer Chain

### Addition/Requests

If you would like to be added to Cornerstone's church-wide prayer chain, please send an email to Teresa Bivens at [bivstikk@netins.net](mailto:bivstikk@netins.net). Also please direct all prayer requests to Teresa via this email. Thank you.

## Sonshine Community Ministries, by Jan Kloss

It is difficult to carry on as if everything is “normal” because, clearly, it is not. Granted, death is a part of life and we need to deal with it all so often. But, we as humans have difficulty considering the death of someone way before their time as “normal”. And what about those who are so kind and good: why? In the past week, the death of two young men has shaken me and so many others to the bone. I have heard such nice things about Francis from kids he went to school with. They talked about his smile, his humor, his helpfulness, and his kindness. I have seen this in the halls at our church as he walked with his brothers David and Connor and I saw a real joy in him. He will be so missed.

A good friend of mine also lost a sweet grandson last Friday. He was 17 years old. He also was a kind young man with so much to live

for, but he chose to take his life. Why? Why? Why? He had a good family who loved him and tried to help him.

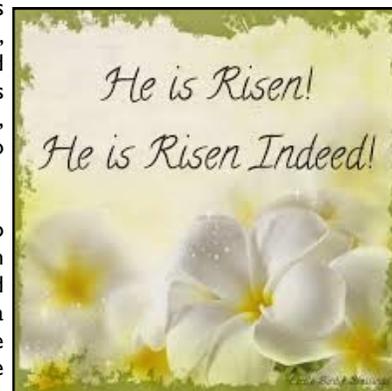
Although we do not understand, we must take comfort in knowing, that as believers in Christ, they are in heaven where there is no sickness, no pain and no sadness. And knowing this, we, as believers, must be sure we are sharing the hope we have in Christ. We should not stand by and watch our neighbors, co-workers, family, classmates, friends, etc. believe the lies the world is more than happy to share.

Today (3-24-17) is my great-grandson’s birthday. His name is Jonas, Jr and he would have been 4 years old. He was a precious little boy with a cute personality who was loved so much by his family and anyone who knew him. And,

yet, he took his last breath here on earth on Nov. 24, 2014. We did not understand how this could happen, but, again, our hope is not on earthly understanding, but in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again. Because of this truth, we can know that Jonas, Jr. is in heaven and we, who believe, will see him again.

So, my heart and prayers go out to the Nass family, Jann Stark, Lisa & Mike Carlin, and Alexa. I also pray for Clarissa and our whole family as we remember our sweet little angel, Jonas Jr.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mallard’s Night Event that featured Sonshine. Even though I was unable to be there, I hear it was a fun evening.



## “I Have Seen” by Donald Halterman

I have seen with my eyes, and heard with my ears, the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I have seen: A senior Pastor and Wife, having been crushed, yet not defeated, raise a body of young and old to love Christ. As He has matured he has delivered messages with the Power and the Spirit of Christ.

I have seen: A young Pastor and Wife, filled with love to serve 24/7, while balancing parenthood and a second job. For Me they were always there, to comfort and encourage Me.

I have seen: A body of Elders, Trustees and Teachers who gave of themselves for the growing of the Body, rightfully dividing the Word and Scripture, to bring the unity of the Faith.

I have seen: The selection of three new Pastors and their Wives to fill leadership positions, coming from California, Texas, and Home-grown. Each with unique personalities to complement the Whole.

I have seen: When the Body outgrew one central facility, rather than building a megachurch, Leadership chose a second campus in our neighboring community. This to reach God’s Elect and bring them in to be nourished with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have seen: Within the body, Daddy’s and Mommy’s raise babies and young children to love Jesus. These children grew to young teens and became young men and women. Many to raise not only a new generation, but to do so as Missionaries, some 5,000 to 10,000 miles from Home.

I have seen: A sister-sibling give her life to Christ, and with our Mother never knew a child they didn’t love. This began a trailer-home church, to minister to the vulnerable.

I have seen: A nephew with more natural character, than I, with all my cognitive bible knowledge.

I have seen: A Christian woman, come into My life, who I desired to please more than my self-centered gratification.

I have seen: Myself as a broken man, without purpose and double-minded, serving as your janitor. And as I stayed around, something began to work its way into me. I began to love this Church as family. And more important, this church seemed to love me.

## Women’s Ministry

### Summer Bible Study

Our summer bible study will be **“Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent”** - by Beth Moore

This 7 week study will explore in detail the themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, and facing ridicule as we learn about the major feasts of Israel.

We will offer the bible study at both locations. More details and specifics will follow in the upcoming weeks. Sign ups will begin in May.

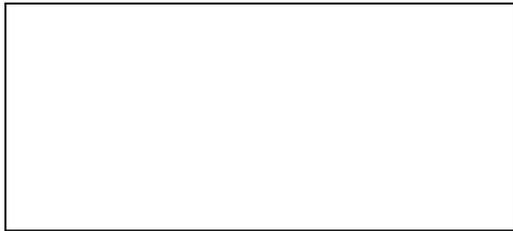
If you are interested on helping facilitate or co-facilitate at either location, please contact Deana Trotter or Tammy Bullock



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

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## Annual Meeting & Potluck

The annual church meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 23rd starting at 5:00 pm. We will be gathering for communion & worship in the sanctuary followed by a potluck in the ROCK. Then remaining in the ROCK & starting our annual church meeting at 6:30 pm.

Please bring a side dish & dessert to share. The fellowship committee will be providing ham, rolls, lemonade, coffee, and table service.

**weekend to remember<sup>®</sup>**  
marriage getaway

Family Life Weekend to Remember Marriage Conferences

Oak Brook: March 31 - April 2  
Madison: April 7-9  
Indianapolis: April 21-23  
Madison: May 19-21

Contact Scott or Teresa Bivens with questions at [bivstikk@netins.net](mailto:bivstikk@netins.net)

Always use "CornerstoneBaptist" (one word) as the group code in order to get discounts, and so that we can get scholarships.

**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

**VBS - SAVE THE DATE**

2017 Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 5th - 9th from 8:45-11:30 am.

If you are interested in helping at this amazing outreach, please contact Nick & Sarah Hansel 563-594- 8863 or [sarah.fullarmorfitness@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.fullarmorfitness@gmail.com)