



LYNNVILLE FRIENDS CHURCH

Making Much of Jesus

December, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk...

I've said it before, "The devil is a sly cat." So often we think of Satan trying to tempt us with all these big things. I think it so often is the little things that can trip us up and lead us away from God. One of those little harmless things is busyness.

I am no stranger to this one. Somehow the devil tricks us into believing that if we aren't busy then something must be wrong. So we pack our schedules full to make sure we stay on the run. Recently, I found myself home by myself an evening with nothing to do and I almost felt guilty. I ended up sitting down and reading a book for pleasure. It was so nice and relaxing. If you are curious what book I read it was Ted Dekker's, Water Walker.

Remember the Lord rested too. We live in a time where there is a lot to do and many demands are put on our time. As you are sitting at your calendar or planner don't forget to schedule in some down time. Plan some time where you can sit back and enjoy a good book, play a game with your family or go for a walk and enjoy God's creation. Make sure you also schedule some time with God.

Make sure in this busy Christmas season that you don't get so busy that you forget the real reason that we have Christmas. Parties and gifts and all that are fun but don't get so busy that you forget Jesus. Make sure you take some time to spend with Jesus and celebrate the greatest story ever told, the birth of our Savior, Emmanuel, God with us. Merry Christmas!

Contact Us

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Upcoming Greeters

December 3
Front: Scott & Gayla Van Soelen
Canopy: Gary & Linda Beyer

December 10
Front: Cory & Shawna Tice
Canopy: Craig & Sheri James

December 17
Front: Mark & Missy Doll
Canopy: Boyd & Kathy Arthur

December 24:
Front: Verlan & Lori Vos
Canopy: Bev VG & Eileen DH

December 31:
Front: Don & Dee Van Genderen
Canopy: Duane & Sherry Hart-
hoorn

Missions Update

Praying everyone had a great Thanksgiving!! We have so many things to be thankful for; the most important being the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

I want to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for filling 121 boxes for Operation Christmas Child!!! With your help there will be lots of smiling children around the world. Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to those who have turned in their pledges! It helps the Missions Committee to know how much we can give to our missionaries each month. We meet Monday night so if you have not filled out a pledge sheet, please do so on Sunday.

Just a few updates about our missionaries and prayer requests from them.

Josh and Melanie Dilly Update:

1. I am headed to Cuba right after Thanksgiving to train 100 or more pastors in mission basics. Pray that I have no issues with traveling issues that I am able to hand off everything well to our Cuban leaders:)
2. We recently got a large donation to be used to help our partners as they recover from the hurricanes. Mel will be going to Dominica and I will be going later this spring to Barbuda with a partnering organization from Trinidad and Tobago. Pray we use the money well, and it is multiplied in blessing those who need it most. Also pray it is received well and will enable our friends to once again focus back on what they desire to do: send missionaries to the unreached!
3. Pray for a great end financially to our year. I hate to ask for this one, but it is reality. We had a strong 2017, but also rely on year end giving to propel things for next year. We are losing a big supporter due to them retiring Jan. 1, so I am praying and trusting God to replace their giving so we can focus on our insanely busy schedule.
4. This ties in with the last one-We have literally more work than we can do. I was just in New York, and several Caribbean churches there want to become solid mission senders. This is all great, but it takes time and money to train, coach and develop all these new partnerships. Mel and I can only do so much! So we are praying that God makes a way for us to balance everything, and that we are able to develop strong partners that will work with us.

*The Dilly family will hopefully finalize adoption on two more children December 2nd. Please pray all goes well and they are officially a family. We will get an updated picture at that time.

Daniel and Sarah Zagami Update:

Please pray for the growing Swahili speaking church as it is officially registered and for the two men in pastoral training to lead the church.

Please pray for wisdom as we talk with a French speaking African family about a possible French speaking church.

Give thanks with us for 2 years (in January!) in Clarkston and improved health and good friends and ministry partners.

Please continue to pray for ALL our missions/missionaries that we support!

FOCUS

We have had some great Wednesday FOCUS nights in November. Romans 1:16 seemed to jump out to us in several lessons: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." We also had a salvation message.

On Sunday evening, November 12, we hosted a community youth group night where 2 DJ's from Pulse 101.7 spoke about the importance of powerful music. What we put into our heart and mind is what comes out of it. We had a total of 75 people that included adults and students. Special thanks to the Young Friends committee and Jason Allbee for their help in making everything go smoothly. It was a fun night with an important message. This ties well into two upcoming music events that we are planning to go to. The first is on Saturday, December 9 at McElroy Auditorium in Waterloo. The second is Winter Jam held at Wells Fargo in Des Moines on Friday, January 26.

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) was held at Lynnville Friends Church on November 17-19. 28 students went through as candidates. We had a few from our church and community that helped with the event. Special thanks to those in our church family that opened up their homes to some adult workers that needed a place to sleep. It was another powerful weekend where students made a commitment to Christ for the first time while others recommitted their lives to Him.

We are in the process of planning the 2018 FOCUS mission trip. We will be going to Houston for hurricane Harvey relief. More information will be mailed to students and parents in the near future.

Continued thanks for your prayers and support for the youth of our church and community.

Nursery for December

12-3- 17 Duane & Sherry Harthoorn
12-10- 17 Mike & Janel Hay
12-17- 17 David & Peggy Hofer
12-24- 17 Craig & Sheri James
12-31- 17 Matt & Lisa James

FOCUS CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHEN: Wednesday, December 20
6th - 8th Grade will have their white elephant gift exchange at 6:30 followed by pizza and snacks at 7:15. High school will join in at 7:15 for pizza and snacks followed with their white elephant gift exchange.

WHERE: FOCUS room

WHAT: Bring snacks. Pizza and drinks will be provided. For the white elephant gift exchange, find something that you already have at home that you no longer want and wrap it. We will then have a grab bag gift exchange.



DECEMBER 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------|---------|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | Luke Jones 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Focus 6th-12th K-5 Activities | 7 | 8 | BIG concert in Waterloo 9 |
| James Gang 10 Christmas Carol 3:00 | Jamie Beyer 11 | 12 | Brenda Terpstra 13 Focus 6th-12th K-5 Activities | Church Council 14 7:00 | 15 | Donna Zylstra 16 David Hofer |
| PreK-5th 17 Christmas Special Young Friends Meeting | 18 | 19 | Denny & Dot 20 Zylstra Focus Christmas Party Christmas Caroling | Curt & Stacey 21 James | David & Garnet 22 Gertsma Walt & Violet Van Maanen | Jelissa Rozendaal 23 |
| Treyton Turnbull 24 Jr. High & High School Christmas Special No Sunday School Candelight Service | 25 | 26 | No Focus 27 | Dale Brand 28 Maida Dunwoody | 29 | 30 |
| Tyler Harsseelaar 31 No Sunday School | | | | | | |