

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



From Our Pastor

Start Where You Are

There was a young man named Jacob who started off in life with questionable character. Catching his brother Esau in a weak moment and traded a bowl of soup for Esau's birthright. Later, tricking his father, Jacob passed himself off as Esau and stole the family blessing. Forced to leave home because Esau threatened to kill him, Jacob sets off for his uncle Laban's house.

On the way, Jacob had a personal encounter with God in a dream. This encounter had such a dramatic impact upon Jacob that he vowed to give God a tenth of all God prospered for him from that day forward.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and all that you give me I will give you tenth." (Genesis 28:2-22).

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God specializes in seeing something in people's hearts that he can use to turn their lives around for his glory. God saw Jacob would honor him with his resources that he would be a faithful steward of the blessings of God in his life.

Sometimes people wait until they prosper before giving to God's work. But Jacob found the key to good stewardship; it includes the Lord's work and starts with where you are today.

Thank you so much for being faithful in giving of your talents and gifts. Your gifts connect with one another and reach out to people all over the world. It is a wonderful privilege. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Trinity Church.

Unrelenting Grace

For this season of Advent, Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai invites you to explore the unrelenting grace of God with friends and colleagues from around our conference. In November, we will begin a virtual, conference-wide Advent Study of Bishop Ken Carter's new book, "Unrelenting Grace". Bishop Carter calls grace the essence of a holy life, in which we recognize that God's loving presence in our lives is a gift. Being able to receive that gift and extend it to others "...stretches us, mystifies us, unravels us, and ultimately heals us," he writes.

The study will help us remember who we are as United Methodists and give us a sense of common belonging, shared identity, and unity. Maybe it will even put us on a road to healing. The study will last for just four sessions and will be entirely online on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Central, beginning on November 28, then continuing on December 5, December 12, and 19.

If you are interested in reading this book or joining the Advent Study Zoom Meetings Let Eileen know. She will get you a copy of the book and register you for the meetings.

Grace is a sharing in the divine life. It is the infused presence of God, a presence that is supernatural, not merely natural.

Prairie Fest Ice Cream Social

Date

Thank you to all who helped in any way with another successful ice-cream social at Prairie Festival. Even Mother Nature cooperated with a cooler than the rest of the week evening!! Many hands make light work and that was evident again with this event. THANKS!!



Speaking of Pie and the Methodist church --

During RAGBRAI the Iowa Annual Conference created a map that was sponsored by United Methodist Communications to direct riders to meals and events on the route.

On the first evening of the ride, when bicyclists rolled into Storm Lake, IA, the reality of the quantity of food and pie served at the Storm Lake United Methodist Church was eye-opening. From 3:00 p.m. til 6:00 p.m. when they ran out of food, more than 1,200 hundred people were served a heaping plate of spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, lettuce salad, and their choice of pie.

Jefferson First United Methodist Church sold 880 burritos, about 1,000 pieces of pie, 300 bars, and gallons of tea and coffee, which had a tent set up along the main route.

Lakes United Methodist Church worked with two other churches in Lake View to sell 2,200 pieces of pie and ice cream. I don't have any figures for the rest of the ride.

In three days, that's 4,400 pieces of pie!! Wow people sure love pie!!

Little Free Pantry

The family of Dennis Parmenter has constructed a Little Free Pantry in his memory that will be placed at the corner of Main Street and Lynwood on the church's property. We are anticipating that it will be used mostly by kids walking to and from school. If you would like to help keep it supplied, we would appreciate it. Please keep in mind how the weather may affect what you put in. Some suggestions are mac and cheese bowls, ramen, granola bars, snack size crackers, cereal. As we see how things go we may amend the suggestions. Thanks for your help!

Osceola UMC hosts school supply event to meet 'extraordinary need'

This past school year, 31% of Iowa schools had a rate higher than 50% of students participating in the free or reduced school lunch program, including all of the Clarke Community Schools, both East Union schools, both Central Decatur schools, and both Mormon Trail Schools. Our area schools are a hot spot of rural poverty in Iowa.

To help ease the transition and put the kids on the best track for future success, Osceola United Methodist Church recently hosted a backpack and school supply giveaway, along with a school clothes voucher program for families. We have done this event in various ways over the past several years.

The need was extraordinary this year, with an unexpected 19.5% increase from last year. The church distributed 380 filled backpacks, 62 more than last year, representing nearly a full quarter of the students in Clarke County.

The goal is not just to help people in our community, but to also allow them to receive with dignity and pride and to be able to feel like they are a part of something that helps others.

In our area the Cambridge United Methodist church and Nazareth Lutheran church are helping our Cambridge residents by providing a snack after school at the Cambridge bus stops.

The snack will include a granola bar, PBJ or another nutritious offering, a drink, and some fruit or vegetable. The Methodist serve approximately 40 snacks a week on Thursday. And the Lutheran church expects to serve an equal number when they start their snack day on Tuesdays.

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*In Iowa, 238,290 people are facing hunger - and of them 68,990 are children. That means 1 in 11 children face hunger daily.*

~Feeding America.org

## Sunday School Resumes

The Children Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10. Pastor will do a children's sermon during worship and then we will go to Sunday School.

Please invite your neighbors' children to attend Sunday School to continue growing in the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.

# VBS

Vacation Bible School is returning in December. We will meet the first three Wednesdays- Dec 6, 13, and 20th.

# Food Pantry

Date

Please donate non-perishable food items for Clothing Closet to help feed the hungry and needy. Thank you for your generosity.

## Golden Angels

Golden Angels is a ministry for those who enjoy singing and praising God. There is no rehearsal required. It is open to all. Join us in praising God on Sunday, September 17. We will sing hymn #347, "Spirit Song."

## Communion Sunday

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, September 3. Come and celebrate the sacrament with us.

## Worship

We witness the transforming power of Christ through our regular presence in worship. Invite a friend or a neighbor to come with you to worship. "God has poured out his love into our hearts." (Romans 5:5).

We have Fellowship each Sunday after worship starting at approximately 10:30 AM. During this special time, we have the opportunity to join in conversation with our fellow congregants. As well as enjoy a sweet treat donated by our fellowship volunteer.

Speaking of volunteers, we need people to volunteer each Sunday to be greeters, read the passages from the bible, present the slideshow and to run the camera so that we can stream to members who can not join us in person, and serve fellowship.

Each of these jobs is important to assist everyone to enjoy their Sunday morning worship. Thank you for volunteering.

# New South Window Installed

Date \_\_\_\_\_

The final window in our sanctuary repairs has been installed and the exterior trim is complete and waiting for a new coat of paint. The window has screens on the ends and an open area for a stain glass insert if at



sometime anyone wants to donate one to the church. Note, this is a commercial window just as the other replacements, (from Corn Belt Aluminum). These new windows will protect the church interior and help with utility costs.

Many thanks to Matt and Dan (Matt Devig Farms & Construction Services, LLC) for their excellent work and cooperation with our repairs.

## Story County Housing Trust Update

Our Church is a Grantee as "TUM Hands-Serving Others".

We recently completed this work for a local resident after they encountered some emergency medical issues. With this ramp the resident can now safely move in and out of their home.

The ramp is built to code and handicap accessibility requirements.

If you or someone you know is in need of help with their home, please contact the church office to obtain an application to have the work completed.

The Story County Housing Trust (SCHT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a designated Local Housing Trust Fund by the Iowa Finance Authority for Story County. The goal of the SCHT is to improve affordable housing in Story County.



We address critical life-safety issues – The repair should only address a critical need. 2. Assist individuals in need. 3. Fix a problem & improve the living conditions of residents.

# Another New Roof

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Due to the early summer hailstorm on April 19th that hit our community. A new shingle roof was installed on the church this week. The damaged roof was reviewed by our insurance carrier, Grinnell Mutual. They determined that the damage warranted a new roof, so they sent us money to replace the current roof, which was installed in the spring of 2019.

The church council reviewed two contractor's quotes and awarded the project to Worth Exteriors contractor who oversaw



# Methodist Camp Kid Breakfast

Cambridge United Methodist will be serving a Camp Kids Breakfast on September 9 from 8:00 - 10:00 AM at the Dorcas Hall in Cambridge.

On the menu is: Biscuits and Gravy, Pancakes, Eggs, Suasage, Bacon, and a drink. All of this for a free will offering!!



Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer for all teachers

“Dear God, Thank you for all the teachers who have dedicated their lives to educating our students. Thank you for helping them to equip their students with the tools needed to grow and achieve. Lord, bless them with the patience, compassion, and creativity needed to engage and connect with each student, understanding their unique needs and potential. Strengthen their resolve to teach with passion and dedication, even in the face of difficulties or discouragement. Please keep their classrooms safe from all threats of harm and bless each student to feel safe and accepted. Amen”

## Puzzles

X G O W P Z D R A M A F K Y R A R B I L  
 R N S N S T C E J B U S H E Q M A T H V  
 L I T A O F Y S E N X P K A I C W G D Z  
 M T U K E I B H V L A Q N O L U R J T S  
 Y I D H C W T X T R E Z F A O S E N E P  
 J R E Q O A N A G L U M S K V B A I B Y  
 S W N X S M P O C H A S E T A Z D R A F  
 C E T O T Y E K B U R E V N J U I L H Q  
 I Z S F R G A W C O D L H E T L N X P M  
 E Q J S A T V R O A K E P S Y A G O L E  
 N U M B E R S M S R B T L I D F R S A H  
 C R X V G C O J H C K A W A Z Q P Y N O  
 E O H P A F E N G L I S H O C E B U T D  
 B C I S U M K R F C Y S L X L I C N E P  
 A J S R G V Q B O Z M O S L W T S H A U  
 P X T U N D E S K F O B I O S R M Y C N  
 S N O Y A R C Z W H J N T V R A Q O H L  
 U F R I L B M H C T G R A D E S U K E P  
 H M Y T O C G S N R A E L S D N E I R F

### Words:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Alphabet    | Art            |
| Health      | Teacher        |
| School      | Drama          |
| Spelling    | Music          |
| History     | Elementary     |
| Scissors    | Numbers        |
| Backpack    | English        |
| Homework    | Pencil         |
| Science     | Friends        |
| Books       | Writing        |
| Classroom   | Geography      |
| Crayons     | Reading        |
| Library     | Grades         |
| Students    | Recess         |
| Desk        | Language Arts  |
| Math        | Social Studies |
| Subjects    | Learn          |
| Physical ED |                |

# Puzzles

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Back to School Scramble



Everything was almost ready to start the new school year but the labels for the classroom got jumbled. Can you unscramble the letters to form the names of 24 things you might find in your classroom? Watch out, one of the objects is formed from two words.

IRCAH \_\_\_\_\_

FGAL \_\_\_\_\_

BKOENOTO \_\_\_\_\_

CDLNARAE \_\_\_\_\_

REEARS \_\_\_\_\_

LSARTPE \_\_\_\_\_

EGLU \_\_\_\_\_

IRFLEAAMR \_\_\_\_\_

CNLEPI \_\_\_\_\_

KSED \_\_\_\_\_

OASOCBEK \_\_\_\_\_

TXOKBTOE \_\_\_\_\_

CRTOLUALCA \_\_\_\_\_

RRAMEK \_\_\_\_\_

KACKCBAP \_\_\_\_\_

ROSSSICS \_\_\_\_\_

CKALH \_\_\_\_\_

OLCKC \_\_\_\_\_

CATEHR \_\_\_\_\_

MSOACPS \_\_\_\_\_

ENDUSTT \_\_\_\_\_

GLEBO \_\_\_\_\_

NIBDRE \_\_\_\_\_

APPRE \_\_\_\_\_

## Back to School Missing Words

Use the words from the list on the right to finish the words on the left. Your completed words will all be subjects you might study in school.

1. Wri\_\_\_\_g

cat

2. g\_\_\_\_mar

din

3. Rea\_\_\_\_g

hem

4. S\_\_\_\_ish

log

5. Com\_\_\_\_er Science

pan

6. Techno\_\_\_\_y

put

7. Physical Edu\_\_\_\_ion

ram

8. Hi\_\_\_\_\_

tin

9. Geo\_\_\_\_y

graph

10. Mat\_\_\_\_atics

story