

# The Witness

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Newsletter

April 2025

## Thinking about Life

Time to plant the garden. How unlikely to produce results, it seems.

You buy a packet from the store. Inside are dead looking things. Black, not green. In fact, they came from the last stages of some plant, just before it withered and died. Just a roundish, black thing. Itty bitty. No leaves. No roots. They don't look like what you want them to be. You can set them on the counter, and nothing happens. They just lay there --- seemingly dead.

Yet, a miracle will occur. You bury them in nasty looking dirt and walk away. A little rain. A little sun. And then suddenly, life springs forth. Just a hopeful stalk and a bit of a leaf. But, then a miniplant. And ultimately a full fledged replica of its source. And finally it produces fruit. It has become what it was intended to be.

So it is in our own world. We were dead-like things. In fact, we were totally dead. But when (if?) we trusted Christ, something new was created. At first it might not look like much. But given some water and nourishment, it springs out. New life shows its face. And from little, unlikely beginnings, it begins to take shape. Until one begins to see the creator in this new life. Maturity begins to take shape. And when the process is followed, fruit springs forth.

Christ is the seed within us. His resurrection, enables Him to re-produce Himself within us when we take Him as Savior. And this new life grows and develops us into His image. This new life ultimately produces fruit abundantly, as we cooperate with Him.

The Bible uses terms like 'born again', 'new life', 'new creation', and many other pictures. In light of the upcoming celebration of Easter, let me use the term 'resurrection life'. When we trust Christ, He gives us this new resurrection life. We have within us this image of Christ. We won't just get eternal life some day. We have eternal life now. We already enjoy a new life in us. Powerful. The ability to look like Christ. The strength to persevere. The empowerment to become all that we were created to be. And the natural (supernatural) effect is that we produce fruit.

Christ accomplished all this on that first Easter. He died for our sin, removing the consequences and guilt, and giving us His righteousness. And through the Spirit that now indwells us, we have the same power that raised Him from the dead. A power that is there not to do weird things, but to transform and renew us. To transform us into the image of Christ. To produce a life of fruitfulness.

The gospel, Christ's death and

resurrection, accomplished salvation to deal with our past. But equally important, He now infuses us with resurrected life. A life that doesn't look like our ugly beginnings. But a life that looks like our Creator, our Savior, our Lord. And enables us to produce the fruit that shows who/what we really are.

May we cooperate. May we nurture this new life. May we desire for this new life to truly change us so that we are mature – looking like our Savior and producing fruit for the benefit of others. Time to plant and nurture this garden within.

Pastor Danny

## April Outreach

Calling all dessert makers and eaters! The annual Dinner and Dessert Auction is coming Sunday, April 13 after church. This fundraiser for youth events (especially camp) is always a big day. This is always the biggest source of the year for youth camp funding (and other youth events). The money is also shared for children's camp (if we send kids to one). The event is always fun, with outrageous amounts given for cakes/pies/etc. Be a part. Attend the event. Bring a friend. Make a dessert to auction off. Buy a dessert to support our youth/kids.

Also, in the month of April (on the 20th), we will be celebrating Easter, recognizing the death and resurrection of our Savior. We will again return to Swearingen Park for a 6:35 AM sunrise service. Yep, its early. But the power of the worship as we sing and reflect on scripture watching the sun arise is not to be missed. We always have a great crowd. And there is time afterwards to run home for a quick nap before our regular Sunday School and church service. We will include the Lord's Supper in the morning service, and we often change up the service a bit on that day. Be sure to invite a friend to one or both services. What a natural way to invite someone who does not normally attend.

And the final week end of the month (April 27), we will fix hamburgers and enjoy a church picnic after the service. Let's hang out and enjoy each other's fellowship.

Use these events as tools to invite friends/neighbors/family. That is what makes the events an outreach.

Pastor Danny

This month, our youth have been diving into the book of James, exploring what it means to have a faith that endures, obeys, and takes action. It's been exciting to see students engaging with God's Word and applying it to their lives. Their questions and discussions show a real desire to grow in their walk with Christ!

Looking ahead, we have two upcoming fundraisers to support our summer camp. Join us for a Dinner and Dessert Auction after church on April 13, and don't miss our Hotdog Fundraiser on

April 26 from 11-1.

Thank you for investing in our students!  
Dennis Wagner

### Music Ministry

We had some great singers in February which featured Sheryl Jobe, Steve Bradshaw, Sam Wagner, and Kathy Freeman. We really appreciate everyone who brings the Special music.

### Sr Adult Ministry

What a great time we had at the cooking video on Thursday. March 20th. The featured cooks were Jeanetta Watson with her daughter Karen. Also David Freeman brought a dessert recipe. This was a very entertaining Cooking Video. Everyone had a good time and a fantastic lunch. The next video will be on June 19th at 11:00. Be looking for more information.

The Lakeview Baptist Camp Spring Sr Adult Rally will be May 8th. The featured speaker will be Greg Zackary with Worship provided by Ricky and Amanda Thompson. The cost this year is \$18.00. The church will provide transportation as needed.

Thanks  
Bro Steve



### Your Church Staff...

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Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**  
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### At-A-Glance:

February's Gifts: \$19,199.<sup>00</sup>  
2025 Gifts : \$38,948.<sup>60</sup>

