

caring sharing daring

Happy New Year to all the members and friends of Green Street Church in the name of Jesus Christ!

The coming of the New Year often causes one to reflect on the past year. When I reflect on 2021, I realize that last year was incredible for this church! You have accomplished so much. I praise God for you all and for your hard work that has made these things possible!

We recently completed the first picture directory for this church in many, many years. "A picture is worth a thousand words" is an old adage that certainly rings true as I review the directory photos. Besides revealing that you are the best-looking people in Hastings, these pictures tell a beautiful story of the many ways you serve God and neighbor. And during the recent holiday season, the busiest time of year, you gave even more of your time and money to help people in this community.

We served 300 drive-through meals on Thanksgiving Day. We provided approximately \$20,000 in gift certificates, Christmas gifts, and other in-kind donations to folks in this community who receive assistance through the Food Pantry, Community Meal, Help for the Holidays, Hand2Hand and Fresh Food programs. Your gifts helped those who needed it most, including our local businesses. Thank you for your generosity!

The New Year is also a time for establishing resolutions for change and for setting new goals. Most resolutions I hear folks mention are about some sort of self-gratification. Losing weight, saving money, and spending more time at leisure are all common resolutions. And all of these resolutions are good things if kept in proper perspective with what is truly important. What is of the utmost importance to you? Is it evident in your life? Could others tell what is important to you by what you do? By the way you spend your time and money?

In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus gives us a “test” to determine if we are in God’s Kingdom; i.e., if we are living according to God’s will. That test is quite simply an ethical one. It is not about what we believe. It is about what we do to build the Kingdom of God. The test is whether or not we are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, and welcoming strangers. Those that do these things are Jesus’ “sheep”, and those that do not are “goats” and have no place in the Kingdom.

This passage from Matthew is not so much about end time judgment as it is about establishing priorities for the church here and now. It is about Christ establishing what is of the utmost importance. The church was established by Christ to do this very important Kingdom building work. It is impossible for one to fully participate in the Kingdom of God without being a part of Christ’s church.

What better moment for us to consider this question of utmost important than at the beginning of the New Year? What better moment to establish a goal to serve Christ and his church more completely this year?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a “Call to Discipleship” card. Jesus never asked for volunteers; rather, he called disciples. What are you being called to do to help build God’s Kingdom? Please pray about it, complete the card, and return it in the enclosed envelope or by bringing it to church. Then we will help connect you with the ministries to which you are called.

Because Christ has called us, our future is bright! I am excited to see what God will do through you all in 2022!

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor!

Blessings, Bryce



Happy New Year! This past December it was laid on my heart, and my lap (thank you Pastor Bryce) to help in one of our ministries. I took on the mission of the **“Help for the Holidays” Christmas adoption program**. As a child of 8, I was a recipient of a similar program the Christmas after my father passed. I felt unbelievably blessed to be able to finally pay it forward! With the help of our congregation and other outside sources, we were able to help 25 families have a less stressful Christmas than they would have otherwise. That's nearly 100 people we made a direct impact on! Being able to bless these families and see how grateful they were for the help made my heart happy. Seeing God move and bearing witness to his divine interventions was incredibly humbling. There were many needs, but one in particular was a winter coat. Not only was the coat able to be purchased at below the original cost, which allowed for a set of gloves and hat to be purchased and given along with the coat, BUT when the gift was received, they commented on how it was the exact coat they had looked at but couldn't afford or find in their size. God is good and he knows our needs! I want to thank every single person who helped, whether it was giving financially or with your time. YOU helped make a difference! **Thank you! Teresa Borton**

KidZone



Memory Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:30-31

Teachings of Jesus

After finishing the Christmas season, we will continue our study of the book of Mark by focusing on some of Jesus' teachings. We will take a look at some parables and lessons that He shares.

The Chosen study will be beginning the week of January 9th. Children will be able to watch with their families on Sunday evenings at 5:30 and activities will be provided for the kids during the 6:30 discussion.



Missions

We will be collecting for the UMCOR tornado relief fund on January 9th.

1/2

**VISIT OF THE
MAGI**

Matthew 2:1-12

1/9

**PARABLE OF THE
SOWER**

Mark 4:1-20

1/16

**THE RICH YOUNG
MAN**

Mark 10:17-31

1/23

**PAYING TAXES
TO CAESAR**

Mark 12:13-17

1/30

**THE MOST
IMPORTANT
COMMANDMENT**

Mark 12:28-34

Green Street Church
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Address Service Requested



Sunday Worship
In-Person
and
Facebook LIVE
10:00 AM

January 2022 Newsletter