



Volume 12, Issue 2

April- May 2023

Spring Time

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Gratitude Glorifies God

For it is all for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

2 Corinthians 4:15

The Heidelberg Catechism is famous for its threefold outline of Christian theology: guilt, grace, and gratitude. We are guilty sinners before God. God saves us from guilt by His grace. We respond to this grace with heartfelt gratitude. You could add a fourth "G"- glory. When we respond to grace with gratitude, God gets glory.

Psalms 50:23 says, "The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me." We often think of thanksgiving as a family holiday, or something we give perfunctorily before meals, or something our mother ordered us to say when we were in a rotten mood. But being thankful goes deeper, or, I should say, it goes higher. Gratitude makes much of God because it shows both that God is the author of all that is good and that we love the giver more than the gifts.

Paul explained to the Corinthians that his difficult and personally costly ministry was for their sake, so that as more people receive grace, more would be thankful, and thus more glory would go to God. What marvelous, gospel-proclaiming, God-glorifying logic! When we minister faithfully, God gets glory every step of the way.

Kevin DeYoung; Our Daily Bread

The hand of God on a life changes everything...

*Transformed
Rescued
Saved
Redeemed
Forgiven
Comforted
Healed
Freed
Blessed
Changed*



The Four Soils Beside the Road



In an ever-changing world of political and social polarity, we are running through the continual gamut of the world and its value system plummeting and sneaking in ever so slowly and methodically into the Christian's life, and even into that of the twenty-first century church in America. How do we spot when the world creeps into the church?

The only answer is on what kind of people are joining the church and the influence they bring as they amalgamate within the fabric of congregational life. We are so blessed at Woodville Community Church and its godly members and strong biblical leadership. We have so many who selflessly give of their time and energy to exalt Christ and His name. But this is not always the case in many congregations today.

We see a plethora of Churches falling apart from within, with weak stances on Biblical authority and continual compromise with social and political matters that leave little room for the evangelization of the gospel message. So, what is the larger issue at hand? How should we be looking at people who seek to become part of our local congregations. In light of many of the so-called “revivals” reported happening on school campuses, how do we make our way to being careful fruit-inspectors of those who claim Christianity. In a recent article by pastor-teacher John MacArthur, he gives helpful instruction on looking at the sowing and reaping process within the hearts of several individuals in the famous parable taught by Jesus in Luke 8.

Ineffective evangelism can cause a lot of soul searching for the one evangelizing. Some re-evaluate the message while others question their methodology. But those are only worthwhile endeavors insofar as the message remains *faithful* to the one true gospel (Galatians 1:8–9) and the methodology is *obedient* to Christ's command: “*That repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations*” (Luke 24:47). Beyond that it all boils down to something we have absolutely no control over—the heart condition of those who hear the gospel. When Jesus started to teach using parables, He began by explaining that very issue.

The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great. (Luke 8:5–8).

This is a foundational truth that the church desperately needs to be reminded of—set in an agricultural story equivalent to evangelism. Jesus went on to explain that the seed represents the message and the soil represents the heart of the hearer (Luke 8:11–15). And the various soil types in the story cover the whole range of human heart conditions.

The Hard Soil Beside the Road

The first soil type we encounter is the pressed-down, dry, and hardened soil “*beside the road*” (Luke 8:5). It pictures a heart that is impervious to biblical truth. This is perhaps the most disturbing and hopeless of all the conditions Jesus depicts. Unbelief and a love of sin have made the heart a dense, rocklike environment where truth cannot possibly penetrate, much less take root. The hearer is therefore oblivious, hopeless, spiritually dead—and totally susceptible to the stratagems of Satan. Jesus explains: “*Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved*” (Luke 8:12). That verse, by the way, explains the true goal symbolized in the work of the sower. His aim is that people might “*believe and be saved*.” There is only one way to sow the proper seed for such a goal: **by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ**. The sower is an evangelist. He is hoping for a harvest of souls.

Inevitably, he encounters hearers whose hearts are like concrete. The Old Testament calls them “obstinate” (Exodus 32:9) people who “*stiffened their neck*” (2 Kings 17:14). The clear implication is that such people have deliberately hardened their own hearts. “*They have stiffened their necks so as not to heed My words*” (Jeremiah 19:15). Of Zedekiah, the evil young king who “*did evil in the sight of the Lord his God*” (2 Chronicles 36:12), Scripture says, “*He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel*” (2 Chronicles 36:13). He deliberately steeled his own will against repentance. Men like that were the ones who stoned Stephen, and he called them on it: “*You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did*” (Acts 7:51).

continued next page

Such a person is depicted by the well-worn, barren footpath around the field. This heart is a thoroughfare, crossed by the mixed multitude of iniquities that continually traverse it. It is not fenced, so it lies exposed to all the evil stomping of everything wicked that comes along. It is never plowed by conviction. It is never cultivated with any kind of self-searching, self-examination, contrition, honest assessment of guilt, or true repentance. The heart is as hardened against the sweet beckoning of grace as it is against the dreadful terrors of judgment. Indifference, insensibility, and a love for sin have made this person's heart dense, dry, and impenetrable.

This is the fool of Proverbs—the person who despises wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7) and “*has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart*” (Proverbs 18:2, NKJV). What's interesting here is that Jesus is not describing atheists in His parable. He is speaking to people in a highly religious culture, and the hardest of all hearts in His audience this day are the religious aristocracy—the top scribes and Pharisees, the same ones who had so recently blasphemed the Holy Spirit, cutting themselves off from grace altogether. Their sin epitomizes the absolute ultimate in hard-heartedness. The rank atheist is in a better state spiritually than they are. Elsewhere, Jesus said to them, “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father” (John 8:44). In explaining His parable, Jesus again says hardened hearts are utterly at the mercy of the evil one. “*The devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved*” (Luke 8:12).

How does the devil snatch the Word of God away from a heart? He has many devices, and we should not be ignorant of them (2 Corinthians 2:11). If you think Satan and his works are always obviously diabolical, you are going to be defrauded by him. He uses deceit. “*He is a liar and the father of lies*” (John 8:44). He transforms himself and his servants as *angels of light and ministers of righteousness* (2 Corinthians 11:14–15). He confuses people through false teachers who come in Christ's name but subtly attack or undermine the truth of the gospel. He also exploits sinful human passions: fear of what others might think, pride, stubbornness, prejudice, or various lusts. He appeals to the fallen heart's love for the pleasures of sin. He knows that people love “*darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds [are] evil*” (John 3:19), and he takes advantage of that. It is easy for him to make himself appealing to those who love darkness. Then having gained the sinner's trust and attention, he diverts the mind from the truth of the Word, effectively snatching it away from the person's consciousness.

That hardened soil by the roadside was emblematic of many in Christ's audience. Jesus' followers abandoned Him in droves once He stopped feeding them physically and started talking about the bread of eternal life (John 6:26–66). But the impenetrable surface of the roadside didn't typify the hearts of all who followed him—including those who did so superficially. That's why Jesus discussed three other kinds of soil in His parable. Those different soil types run the whole range of human responses to the gospel. This is the beginning of learning to be aware that there are many who “appear” to be genuine believers today. The only test that really shows the true condition of the heart is — time. In due time, you will see those who are around for a while, and leave, and those who stay faithfully connected to the life of the church — for His glory.

Wireless internet is now available!
Network: *Woodville Church Guest*
Password: *christalive*



INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY APP

The church directory is available online via the **Instant Church Directory** App available through Google Play Store or Apple App Store. To access the app, you must first provide the office with an email address. Then, create an account in the app with the same email provided to the office and create a password. You will then need to verify the account through your email.

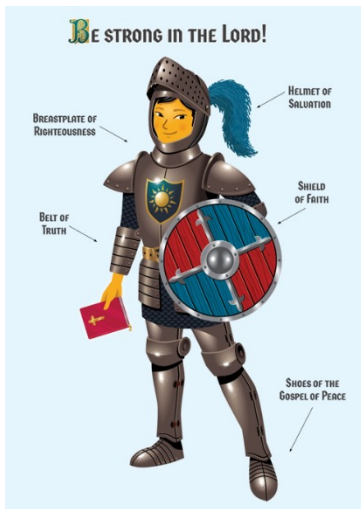
To make any changes to your information, such as a new phone number or picture, please submit the change on the app or contact Shelly Werner at the church office.

Woodville Community Church Vacation Bible School 2023

KEEPERS OF THE KINGDOM



We are engaged in an epic battle for the hearts and minds of our youth. Every day, they are bombarded with lies about who they are, who their Creator is, and where their salvation comes from. Thankfully, God has given His children armor to wear in this battle between truth and lies, light and darkness, good and evil.



With this VBS, kids will learn how they can be part of God's kingdom through salvation in His Son and will be equipped with the armor of God to become Keepers of the Kingdom who stand strong in today's battle for truth.

Save the dates for VBS:

June 19-23, 2023 9 – Noon

Pre-K through 8th grade

Contact Karen White for more information: 231-519-9488



Palm Sunday

On Sunday, April 2, the children are invited to join in the worship service. We will be walking into the service waving palm branches and singing at the opening of the service. Please have the children meet in the narthex by 9:55 am.

Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday

Join your Woodville Church family on Friday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

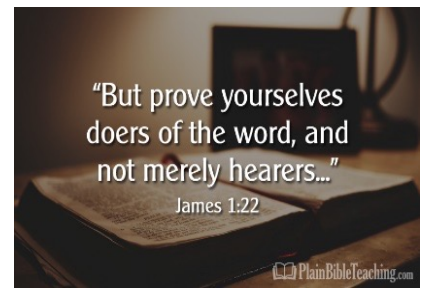
This will be a time of remembering what our Lord Jesus sacrificed for us. We will be having communion also.

Then on Sunday morning, April 9, we will come together to celebrate that our Lord did not stay in the grave.

He has Risen!!!



Ἡ ἐκκλησία ἡμετέρα



Since the last edition of the Woodville Word, the Church Board has moved on a couple of items we would like to share with our church family.

- The Church Constitution and Bylaws booklet is now available in the Narthex. This new edition replaces the previous version published in 2018.
- Back in February during a Sunday morning service, a presentation was made on behalf of the River Community Center in Baldwin to solicit funds for their building program. The Woodville Community Church Elders, after much discussion and prayer, have determined that Woodville Church cannot support contributing funds towards this building project.

Our responsibility is to be good stewards of the Woodville Church funds within the constraints of our approved budget. With other ministries also looking for financial support, and with local benevolence taking priority, the Elders concluded that the ministries nearby should take priority. The Elders also concluded that the other ministries would have more of a realized impact for God’s Kingdom within Woodville’s local community.

- Last year our church committed to helping an orphanage in Mexico for their transportation needs. That commitment was met with a purchase of one van and the repair of another.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregants and others, a balance of just over \$10,000 remains. The Board has approved that the balance will be directed towards supporting our current missionaries and local ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Woodville Community Church Board

ALL CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP is planned for Saturday, May 6th

We will start the day with a nice hot breakfast at 8:00 am and then begin clean-up to the inside and the outside of our beautiful church at 9:00 am.

Everyone is welcome!!!

In this issue:

Just Say'n Philosophy

- Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience.
- To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.
- The fear of death follows from the fear of life.
- A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella.
- Forgiveness is fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.
- The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.
- All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence; then success is sure.
- Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.
- Courage is the resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.
- He will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.
- Wrinkles should merely indicate where the smiles have been.
- Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.
- Everyone is a moon, and has a side which he turns toward nobody: you have to slip around behind if you want to see it.
- If you always tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.



Thoughts from **BOB,** the Blacksmith

WOODVILLE CHURCH NURSERY SCHEDULE

April

- 2 Nancy Redd & Karen White
- 9 Christie Pikaart & LeeAnna Yates
- 16 Amanda Baar & Renee Cook
- 23 Jenna Minor & Stephanie Rockey
- 30 Teri Hook & DeeAnn Ruitter

May

- 7 Nancy Eveland Lynda Kolehouse
- 14 Sharon Stieg & Mary Helmus
- 21 Amy Hysell & Sue Walta
- 28 Adriana Beckwith & Renee Frantz



Thank you, ladies, for your service in caring for these little ones.

If you are unable to serve on the date that you are scheduled please contact Karen White 231-519-9488 as soon as possible.

HE IS RISEN!

Happy
Resurrection Day

April 2023



| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m. | | | | | | 1 Elders' Prayer Time |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:40 a.m. | 2  WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School | 3 Ladies Aid Bible Study | 4 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study WYM | 5 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 6 Praise Team practice | 7 GOOD FRIDAY Service |
| 1 st & 3 rd Monday LADIES AID BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m. | 9 Resurrection Day WORSHIP SERVICE | 10 | 11 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study Men's Monthly Bible Study WYM | 12 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 13 Praise Team practice | 14 |
| Tuesday MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 a.m. | 16 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School | 17 Ladies Aid Bible Study Board Meeting | 18 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study WYM | 19 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 20 Praise Team practice | 21 |
| WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 a.m. | 23 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School | 24 | 25 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible study WYM | 26 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 27 Praise Team practice | 28 |
| W.Y.M. 6:30 p.m. | 30 WORSHIP SERVICE Sunday School | 29 Elders' Prayer Time | 29 Elders' Prayer Time | 29 Elders' Prayer Time | 29 Elders' Prayer Time | 29 Elders' Prayer Time |

Sunday
WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
11:40 a.m.

1st & 3rd
Monday
LADIES AID BIBLE STUDY
10:00 a.m.

Tuesday
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
7:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
9:30 a.m.
W.Y.M.
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
AWANA
6:00 p.m.
NIGHT SERVICE
6:30 p.m.

3rd Monday
BOARD MEETING
6:00 p.m.



April Anniversaries

- 3 Daryl & Pauline Wabeke
- 15 Mike & April Snyder
- 15 Larry & Vickie Worth
- 21 Isaiah & Ruth Davison
- 25 Pete & Pam Alley

April Birthdays

- 13 Annaliese Baar
- 16 Michelle Doornbos
- 16 Bill Edwards
- 19 Joe Wagner
- 20 April Snyder
- 23 Mary Yates
- 26 Annie Mercer
- 28 Renee Hanlon
- 30 Sharon Stieg



Items on this calendar are subject to change



Sunday

WORSHIP SERVICE
 10:00 a.m.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL
 11:40 a.m.

**1st & 3rd
 Monday**

LADIES AID BIBLE
 STUDY
 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
 7:00 a.m.
 LADIES BIBLE STUDY
 9:30 a.m.
 W.Y.M.
 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

AWANA Program
 6:00 p.m.
 NIGHT SERVICE
 6:30 p.m.

3rd Monday

BOARD MEETING
 6:00 p.m.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Greeters for May: Carol Tillotson | 1 Ladies Aid | 2 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M. | 3 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 4 Praise Team practice | 5 | 6 All Church Clean Up Day |
| 7 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL | 8 | 9 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M. Men's Evening Bible study | 10 AWANA WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 11 Praise Team practice | 12 | 13 Worship Workshop |
| 14 WORSHIP SERVICE MOTHER'S DAY | 15 Ladies Aid Board Meeting | 16 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study W.Y.M. | 17 AWANA PICNIC WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 18 Praise Team practice | 19 | 20 Elders' Prayer Time |
| 21 WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHOOL | 22 | 23 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study | 24 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | 25 Praise Team practice | 26 | 27 |
| 28 WORSHIP SERVICE | 29 Memorial Day | 30 Men's Bible Study Ladies Bible Study | 31 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE | | | |



May Anniversaries

- 21 Brad & Amanda Baar
- 27 Ron & Renee Jensen
- 29 Phil & Chris Rottman



May Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 4 Teegan Thompson/Bell | 18 Shelly Werner |
| 6 Stephanie Rockey | 18 Randy Hahn |
| 9 Hayden Cook | 23 Dustin Cross |
| 11 Shelley Cook | 24 Don Foust |
| 12 Norita Cooley | 27 Nancy Rottier |
| 16 Penelope Minor | 31 Tom Helmus |
| 16 Dave Rottier | |

Items on this calendar are subject to change

Food For Thought...

Strawberry Glazed Pound Cake

Prep 15 minutes

Cook 1 hour 5 minutes

Total 1 hour 20 minutes

Instructions

- Preheat your oven to 350 F degrees. Spray a 10 or 12 cup Bundt pan with cooking spray and set aside.
- In a medium size bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.
- In the bowl of your mixer beat together the butter, sugar and vegetable oil on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add the eggs and mix for another 30 seconds or until well incorporated. Add the vanilla, lemon zest, lemon juice, sour cream, milk and continue mixing until everything is well incorporated.
- Add the flour mixture to the mixer bowl and mix until all the flour is well incorporated into the batter.
- Pour the batter into the prepared bundt pan and bake for 55 minutes to 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean.
- Cool the cake for 15 minutes before removing from pan, then continue cooling on a wire rack or serving plate.
- While the cake is baking, prepare the strawberry glaze. In a saucepan, add all the strawberry glaze ingredients, and bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat, to medium low and continue cooking for another 5 minutes, until the sauce thickens. Pour the strawberry mixture into a blender and blend until smooth.
- Let the glaze cool completely before drizzling over the cake. If you like you can top the pound cake with additional strawberries.



Ingredients

For Bundt Cake

- 2 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter (*unsalted, room temperature, 2 sticks*)
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup milk

For Strawberry Glaze

- 2 cups strawberries (*chopped*)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

BEEF NOODLE STIR FRY

Total Time: 20 minutes

Yield: 3-4 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces **dried wide egg noodles**
(about 2.5 cups)
- 1 tablespoon **vegetable oil**
- 8 ounces **beef flank steak or top sirloin**
(**or leftover roast beef**), *sliced into bite size strips*
- 1 small **onion**, *sliced*
- 1 medium **carrot**, *thinly sliced*
- 1 cup **brown mushrooms**, *sliced*
- 1 cup **Chinese cabbage**, *sliced*
- 1 cup **spinach**

FOR THE SAUCE:

- 2 tablespoons **soy sauce**
- 2 tablespoon **oyster sauce or hoisin sauce**
- 1 teaspoon **rice vinegar or mirin** (optional)
- 1 teaspoon **sesame oil**
- 1/2 teaspoon **ground cumin**
- 1/4 teaspoon **ground black pepper or white pepper**

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oil in a large wok or pan over high heat until sizzling hot, about 1 minute. Add beef and sauté until browned on all sides, about 3-4 minutes. If using leftover roast beef, add it in and cook for 1-2 minutes instead, until starting to warm.
2. Bring a large cooking pot of water to a boil over medium-high heat. Add egg noodles and a little bit of salt and cook according to package directions, about 6 minutes. Drain well and set aside.
3. Add onion, carrot, mushrooms, cabbage, and spinach. Stir well and cook until tender, about 3-4 minutes.
4. Stir in noodles and add all the sauce ingredients (soy sauce, oyster sauce, rice vinegar, sesame oil, cumin, and pepper). Toss well and cook for another 2-3 min. until evenly coated.
5. Garnish with white sesame seeds and serve immediately.

“...A merry heart doeth good like a medicine...”



**I can't wait for summer this year...
I sure hope it falls on a weekend.**



ACTIVITY PAGE

Name: _____



Books of the Bible Word Search



GENESIS

JOSHUA

CHRONICLES

EXODUS

JUDGES

EZRA

LEVITICUS

OBADIAH

ECCLESIASTES

NUMBERS

SAMUEL

JEREMIAH

