

MILESTONES. . .

Along life's way, we celebrate special occasions and significant events. We also tend to pause to remember and reflect on special milestones that are meaningful to us. We have personal milestones, ones that involve our families, our community, and our nation. We cherish our memories and hold them close to our hearts. We value life's milestones because they often represent strength, determination, and faithfulness and provide motivation to continue forging ahead.

This month we pause to take note of another milestone in the life of this church – our community of believers – as we mark our 105th anniversary. We will do so with much less fanfare than five years ago, on our 100th anniversary. Yet it's important to reflect on our past, to recognize the dedication of those who came before us and all who labor to continue God's witness in Comstock today.

As we look back, we marvel at God's faithfulness through many generations and of his grace in preserving us for more than a century. We acknowledge the abundance of blessing bestowed on us. We look forward, mindful of the challenges we face, but resting comfortably in God's presence in this congregation. We prayerfully ask that he will continue to use us to build his kingdom.

Celebrating a milestone is often an opportunity for reminiscing, conversation and laughter. We'll do just that on November 18th as we gather after the morning service for a time of fellowship.

We will also be celebrating our 105 years by collecting 105 items for Forrest Academy that are needs they have. Collection will be November 4-18. Please choose from the cards on the table and return to the basket provided.



ONE GOD, THREE FAITHS?

On a drive through the Chicago area coming back from vacation early last week I saw a sign that said “One God, Three Faiths.” I couldn’t read the whole message on the sign because I was driving, but I’m sure the “three faiths” are Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The idea is that any “professing” Christian, Muslim or Jew has a “faith” which personally connects them to the same one God. Sure, they see many of the details of this God and their relationship to him, but none of those details are significant enough to compromise the basic spiritual unity of all “believers” and of the “one God” they all believe in. No one who can see below the surface appearance of these three different “faiths” can believe they focus on the same single God.

But of course a lot of people, including many self-identified Christian people, don’t see beyond the surface appearances of their so called Christian faith. Many of them actually subscribe to a watered-down “faith” which is broad and general enough to include Christianity, Judaism, and Islam – and any other “faith” for that matter. That watered-down “faith” has actually been given a name in recent decades – Moralistic Therapeutic Deism.

This faith is “moralistic.” It is about being a good person who loves and respects the differences among people (up to a point). It is “therapeutic” because it emphasizes living according to principles that will help you find “self-fulfillment,” or something like it – you know. . . your faith helps you have a good life because it helps you solve your problems and feel good. This so called “faith” is called “Deism” because its “god” is far up in Heaven, and not particularly involved in a direct way with what happens here on earth. He created the world (well, maybe not; you know. . . evolution and all that) and most things happen more or less without his direct intervention; but nonetheless it is important to him that human beings recognize who he is and try to be good persons even though we all know we’ll never be perfect.

Now really, is that true Christianity?

I’ve been reading a very interesting (but also very challenging) book recently entitled “It Takes a Church to Raise a Christian.” I wonder how many of us can define and describe “church” and “Christian” in such a way that a Muslim or a Jew or a Jehovah’s Witness or a Mormon or a “New Age” believer (i.e. modern pagan) would realize that it would take radical change on their part to become a Christian. I wonder if they would look at the “Christians” they know, and conclude from what they observe in them that becoming a Christian themselves would be worth the price.

Sobering questions to ask, I know. But all churches need to face them, especially churches in transition.

Pastor Dan

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

If you and your family would like to be a part of this exciting effort –and have the fun of selecting and packing gifts for a child—read on. . .

HOW DO I PACK A SHOEBOX? Pick up a brochure “How to Pack a Shoebox” on the back table, as well as a colorful box, all ready to assemble (or you can use your own and go online for packing instructions). Pick an age group, follow the instructions, and apply the appropriate label (found in brochure.)



IS THERE AN AGE GROUP THAT NEEDS MORE BOXES? Yes –boys & girls ages 10-14 years old.

WHEN AND WHERE DO I TURN IT IN? Bring it to church by November 11 and place on the back table.

WHAT IF I WANT TO HELP BUT CAN'T PACK A BOX THIS YEAR? You can offer a donation to help with shipping & handling (\$9.00 per box). Simply put cash or check into the envelope found in packing brochure, and place in Meredith Gano's mailbox, and she'll be sure it gets to the right place, please do this by November 11.



CAN I FIND OUT WHERE MY BOX WENT? You can follow your box if you go to the website (see below) and make a \$9.00 donation per box. There you will be given info and a printable label with a bar code to use on your box. Later, Samaritan's Purse will email you informing you of the country where your box(es) went.



JOIN US ON DECEMBER 9 FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH. WATCH THE DECEMBER COMMUNICATOR AND THE BULLETIN FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN UPS!

COLLEGE CARE AND SHUT-INS COLLECTION

Collections will begin on November 11 with items due on November 25. Please take a card or two and return your items to the boxes provided. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION



November 25–December 16 you can bring in your Christmas cards for our church family, this includes our shut-ins, however please do not send cards for former members or people who no longer attend here as we can not deliver these.

Thank you!

JLK CONTINUING TO NURTURE THE SEEDS

Did you know that all year long, Jesus Loves Kzoo servants are sharing God's Word, demonstrating Christ's love and "Nurturing the Seeds" through JLK/365 follow-up efforts? Here are 3 upcoming events.

JLK/365 THANKSGIVING ANGELS

Sunday, November 18 (1-3 pm)

Seeking families, small groups, youth groups, and more to help deliver Thanksgiving baskets to many families in the community with whom we have been building relationships since Catalyst Week.

These food baskets are generously provided by Centerpoint Church and there are several ways you can help...

- Donate food for the Baskets
- Donate Funds to help Centerpoint purchase the Hams & Turkeys
- Deliver the baskets & Pray with the families

JLK Partnering with Samuel's Blankets for the Homeless

Friday, November 23 (1:30-3:30 pm)

Twelve year old Samuel VerHage is a JLK Veteran Volunteer with a BIG heart and vision. For the fourth year now, he has been collecting blankets for the homeless and will be distributing to many ministries throughout Southwest Michigan.

On the day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 23) Samuel will be handing many blankets out at MLK Park in downtown Kalamazoo.

JLK will be partnering with Samuel to provide some FOOD and MINISTRY to those gathered in Martin Luther King Park that day!

We are seeking food, supplies, hats & gloves and volunteers for this outreach.

Saturday, December 15 (1-4 pm) @ North Park Reformed Church - 2nd annual Family Christmas Celebration for families we have been building relationships with throughout the year. There will be Nativity Stations where the Gospel will be communicated, there will be a children's craft and game area, a free Christmas "store" where parents can choose gifts for their children and household needs ...and of course there will be fellowship and food!

Go to Jesusloveskzoo.org for more info on all these events

Birthdays

- 1 Todd Wilkins
- 4 Bob Gano
- 11 Dean Denton
Steve French
Tom Triemstra
- 20 Elizabeth Curtiss
Josh VanderLugt
Rob VanOosterum
- 21 Gary VanderLugt
- 23 Morrie French
- 27 Leah Hinds



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Editor: Lisa Bosch

The December issue will come out on December 2, all articles should be submitted by Tuesday, November 27.

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NOVEMBER SCHEDULES

NURSERY

- 4 Mark & Julie Smit
- 11 Jan Larkin & Cherie Van
- 18 Becky Smith & Lexi Hinds
- 22 *Thanksgiving* - Linda French
- 25 Todd & Karen Triemstra

OFFERINGS

- 4 Ministries/CSST Fund
- 11 Ministries/Benevolence Fund
- 18 Ministries/Ministry Shares
- 22 Thanksgiving—Giver's Choice
- 25 Ministries/Missions

COMSTOCK FOOD PANTRY

Canned Meals - soup, stew, chili, spaghetti

WELCOME CENTER

- 4 Morrie French
- 11 Mike & Karen Tiesman
- 18 Tom & Ann Triemstra
- 25 Steve & Linda French

FELLOWSHIP COOKIES

- 4 Cecil & Liz Curtiss
- 11 Morrie & Benton French
- 18 Everett & Marie Dykhuis
- 25 Bob & Meredith Gano

Librarians

- 4,11 Tami Stewart
- 18,25 Kay Triemstra

PRAISE TEAM

- 4 Jack K, Dean D, Dave J, Jeremy S, Owen S, Jared J, Randy W, Leah H, Lexi H. Tech: Mark T
- 11 Mari M, Dean D, Dave J, Jeremy S, Owen S, Grace T, Randy W Tech: Jim & Tina S
- 18 Jack K, Dean D, Dave J, Jeremy S, Owen S, Mark T, Sammy G. Tech: Cris & Randy W
- 22 Jack K, Dean D, Dave J, Jeremy S, Owen S, Tina S, Grace T, Randy W Tech: Mark T
- 25 Mari M, Dean D, Dave J, Jeremy S, Owen S, Leah H, Lexi H, Mark T. Tech: Jim & Tina S

NOVEMBER 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9:00 Power in Prayer	2	3
4 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	5	6 7:00 Elders	7 9:00 LBS 6:30 GEMS 6:30 Cadets 6:30 Danie Bible	8 9:00 Power in Prayer	9	10
11 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	12 6:00 Hobby Night	13	14 9:00 Ladies Bible Study	15 9:00 Power in Prayer	16	17
18 9:30 Worship 11:00 Coffee/Cake in Fellowship Hall - No Sunday School 6:00 Youth Group	19	20 7:00 Council w/ Deacons after	21 6:30 GEMS 6:30 Cadets 6:30 Daniel Bible Study	22 9:30 Thanksgiving Day Service	23 9am-9pm Hobby Day	24
25 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School	26	27	28	29 9:00 Power in Prayer	30	