

Tidings



January, 2021

Douglas Adams—Pastor
Mike Shembarger—Principal

From the Pastor's Desk...

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
Philippians 2:3 (NIV)*

He sat across the aisle from me, talking to himself. I casually glanced over at him and thought, Oh boy, this will be interesting. And I closed my eyes to settle in. After several minutes, he realized he was in the wrong seat. He jumped up and crossed the aisle to join me. I was a bit nervous to be honest. We exchanged pleasantries and I closed my eyes again, waiting for the plane to take off. He continued to mumble to himself as he looked out his window. Several more minutes passed. I tried to fall asleep. And then finally, deep in my heart I felt compelled to talk to my seat mate. Tell me about yourself, I reluctantly smiled.

He told me his name was Henry. Then he started asking me just as many questions as I was asking him. With every answer I gave, he would kindly respond, Well that sounds good. I looked around somewhat apologetically as Henry continued to dialogue with me in a very loud tone. It was then that I profoundly felt three words rush into my mind, *This is Me*. I stopped. I pondered. I swallowed. And I blinked. *You, Lord?* I hesitantly questioned. *This is Me*, I gently but clearly sensed again. And then, *Look at Me*.

I then remembered Jesus' words, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40. My perspective abruptly softened. I looked at Henry with inquisitive eyes as he chatted away. Henry was traveling to attend his grandmother's funeral. He was about to see his father, whom he hadn't had contact with in 25 years. As our conversation unfolded, I learned that Henry had been born with a birth defect called Poland Syndrome. He had a small left hand with fingers that didn't move and permanent paralysis in the upper left side of his body. I listened with interest as we talked about his love of computers. I was captivated by his knowledge, and continued with a long list of questions.

All of my previous inhibitions had completely vanished. The last words Henry spoke to me were, People never talk to me like you have. I blinked back tears as I helped him read his connecting boarding pass. I gently smiled goodbye. But my heart was sad as we got off the plane. You see, I knew how close I was to being like everyone else. So very close. And how many times in the past I was like everyone else. I minister to people every day, but I was resistant to talk to the fragile soul right beside me, begging for attention.

The world, effected by Covid, is living in fear. But as Christian we should not be. We have a God who is a God of hope. That hope should shine in us so that others can see Christ. It is also a way for us as His disciples to see all around us those who are hurting and in need. We have been given the wonderful task of sharing that love with everyone, especially those for whom the world has forgotten or set aside. We pray that God would direct our path so that we may intersect with those who need to hear from us how much Jesus loves them. Pray, look, and ask yourself, "Who might be your Henry today?"

Pastor Adams



Happy New Year! A New Thought and a New Direction

BE AN INSTRUMENT OF GRACE

Colossians 3:12-17 (NASB)

- (12) *“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;*
(13) *bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against any one; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*
(14) *Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*
(15) *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*
(16) *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
(17) *Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”*

Have you lost your temper, lashed out, and become the opposite of grace? I know some families are having a difficult time being civil to one another because it's too much closeness! Domestic abuse, divorce, and suicide are rampant today. People are being stretched to the limit, with no hope for tomorrow. Now more than ever, all of us need to focus on Christ. What exactly does it mean to focus on Christ? It means to take your eyes off of self, your wants, your desires, your expectations, your happiness...me, me, me, me, and me. In other words your idols, and realize I'm not here to worship me, to live for me, but Christ.

What you and I say and how we act really matters. We are children of God, ambassadors for Christ. And when people look at us they should see and hear Jesus Christ, words that are pure, words that encourage and words that edify, build up others. We can't let our words become contaminated, harsh, and destructive! It's our choice; will we follow our sinful flesh, or Jesus Christ and His Word?

You and I can be an instrument of God's grace. The words we speak should be directed by God to enlighten, instruct, and improve another person. Perhaps you need to speak to someone today about his or her behavior. You can't lash out. You can't be cruel and vindictive. Tell the truth in love, and ask God to give you the words that will edify, and develop the other person. Your words are either building up or tearing down those you love. Those around you can benefit from what you say; your words can "minister grace" to others. To give grace to others means your speech will grant them joy, favor, or acceptance.

Why God chose to work through our tongues in extending grace is difficult to understand, but that is what He chose to do in us. And despite any anger, bitterness, and wrath that might be within, we must choose to use our verbal communication in a wise way.

Are you allowing God to use your words to help others grow? When we really love someone, "we accept them as they are (that's grace) but we don't allow them to remain as they are (that's grace too)." Oswald Chambers quote. God tells us in *Colossians 4:6*, *“Let your speech be always with grace.....”* That is an important command. If you have to say something difficult to someone, do it with grace. Do it in a way that won't be grievous to the Holy Spirit of God (*Ephesians 4:29-30*) your words are important to you, to others, and most of all, to God.

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There is so much in this world that seeks to corrupt and destroy our lives. We must be determined to bring joy, growth, and spiritual strength to those in need. Allow God to use your life and your speech to honor Him.

Let's speak words that bring joy, favor, or acceptance to someone. The Lord has been generous with His amazing grace. Let's not fail to be an instrument of His grace!

May God work in our lives through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His Word and create in us a new heart so that we might love one another and glorify Him.

May God Bless our Congregation,

Edward Goodman

Congregation President

Council Report



The work at the Church and School continues through the pandemic. We are focusing on our leadership responsibilities to the congregation, and examining ourselves to see if we are truly living examples of Christ. We are coming to the understanding that before we can address the problems in the church we have to address the weaknesses and faults in ourselves. I ask for your prayers for our leaders that we would humble ourselves and submit to God's leading.

I now will alert you to some of my concerns. Because of this pandemic we have seen a considerable drop in attendance and support for the Church. It is my hope and prayer that this trend will not continue. It is not only in our Church but all Churches throughout the County. The circuit is calling church leaders and principals together to see if there are avenues we can use or share to address the issues facing us today. It is our chief goal to protect Lutheran Churches and Schools in Berrien County from losing our identity, focus, and influence in our communities.

Yes, the Church of God is being attacked. Satan is discouraging and distracting us from our mission but we must not succumb to it. It will take all of us working together in the power of the Holy Spirit to turn this around.

~Let our faith be more than words spoken with no true conviction. Let us reach out to those in need and lost. Let love invade our Church for one another and those outside. And the gates of Hell will not prevail. For the power of God has torn the veil between man and God. And now we know His love will never fail. We Believe, We Believe~

~Some parts taken from the song We Believe Newsboys.

From the Principal's Desk...

As we head into a new calendar year I am hopeful that the worst of 2020 is now behind us. With the beginning of a vaccination distribution, I pray it is the start of a path to destroy the Covid 19 virus. I pray that the distribution efforts go smoothly and that our country can get back to some sense of normalcy.

Our school has been challenged to stay with an "in person" instructional model, while many schools around us have closed. We will be facing new challenges as we return after Christmas Break and must anticipate the potential surge in the virus. We have been very fortunate to have had only one verified case within the school which was with a daycare employee. We have not had to close the school at all and discontinued service in one daycare room for a week. God has been good to us and we should continue to ask for His protection over this ministry.

The students here participate in the Annual Cloverleaf Spelling Bee in Benton Harbor. Each year we have a competition at the school to pick a team to send to the event. Although we are not sure how the program will be run this year, we recently held our internal event to establish our spelling team for the 2020-21 school year. Below are the pictures of our team with the (3) alternates and also the picture of our "top three" including this year's champion speller. They will hopefully be competing sometime after we return from Christmas Break.

I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
Christ
WHO
STRENGTHENS ME
PHIL. 4:13

Congratulations!



Spelling Bee Champion
Adi Hildbrand



Spelling Bee Team (left to right)
1st—Adi Hildbrand, 2nd—Allison Ott,
3rd—Callan Hildebrand



Spelling Bee Team with Alternates Pictured from left to right (back row) Adi Hildebrand, Allison Ott, Callen Hildebrand, (front row) Kameron Sill, Emily Ott & Emerson Hildebrand

Thank you for your continued support of the school mission. We will be working on a lot of new ideas over the winter, to implement next fall. The potential new programs will help increase enrollment and reduce the overall costs of the school for the membership for the 2021-22 school year.

Mike Shembarger, Principal



January Birthdays & Anniversaries



01—Bob & Claudia Jackson

02—Larry Dow
Cheryl Knuth

03—Scott McFarland

05—Gatlan Jasper
John & Judy Larson

06—Charley Cowart
Alyvia Wozniak
Todd & Tami Schacknies

07—Allyn Cooper
John Koenigshof

09—Kathy Jasper
Erma Marschke

11—Brett Marschke

11—Julie Schlutt

12—Marshall McFarland

14—Dave Walter

15—David Marschke

16—Doug Marschke

17—Sonya Schultz

18—Dean Marschke
Barb Radewald

19—Don Geisler
Tricia Schmaltz

Warren & Sandy Backus

20—James Krause

21—Rachel Krieger

22—Dave Ostrander

24—Carol Gaines

Wayne & Pat Clayton

25—Kellan Kring

26—Meaghan Foster

Dale Marschke

Heath & Jennifer Fentress

27—John Jasper

Mary Krause

29—Matthew Carpenter

Gail Holmes

Ralph Lohraff

30—Emily Kerlikowske



Memorials & Special Gifts

Through December 27, 2020

- Lloyd & Margaret Williams
 - Susan Timm Family
 - Mark & Nancy Carpenter
 - Verna Dubke
 - Adam Heimbuch
 - Heidi Heimbuch & Wayne Cheikson
 - Delores Hildebrand
 - Barb Priest
 - Erna Rudlaff
 - Elaine Newman
 - Frank & Delores Gaul
- ...in memory of Gregg Dilley*



- Barb Priest
 - Eldon Spletzer
 - Karen Warda
 - Bryan & Kathleen Virgil
- ...in memory of Ron Vorrath*

When Do You Contact An Elder?

The Elders want you to know that we are available for prayer, discussion, help and assistance.

- * Need help with a personal issue? *Call an Elder*
- * Need to ask about something at church? *Call an Elder*
- * Have a concern with something going on? *Call an Elder*
- * Need assistance with something surrounding your family? *Call an Elder*
- * Reporting a sickness, death, birth or marriage? *Call an Elder*
- * Need to pray with someone? *Call an Elder*



Your Board of Elders is here to counsel, help, listen, assist and encourage you in your life, in your faith, in your family relationships, in your difficulties, and in your joy!

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Tim Krieger | 313-2545 | Jeremy Priest | 357-3987 |
| Don Zandarski | 921-1761 | Steve Schlutt | 449-8827 |
| Dan Knuth | 876-7434 | Steve Jackson | 208-6090 |

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS



The following is a list of our shut-ins and those currently unable to come to church. If you would like to write them a note or drop a card in the mail, they will enjoy and appreciate your thoughtfulness. If there is a name you think is missing from the list, please contact the office or Pastor Adams.

Donna Marschke
2277 E. Linco Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Nancy Whetstone
346 E. Washington
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Jean Koebel
1699 E. John Beers Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Elaine Hoover
9300 M- 140
Berrien Center, MI 49102

Alverda Rudlaff
5743 Orchard Drive
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Mary Kerlikowske
8191 M-139
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Wilma Marschke
5292 Long Lake Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Bob & Claudia Jackson
3093 Riverview Lane
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Martha Wray
11427 M-140
Niles, MI 49120

Karen Koebel
111 Lexington Point Dr. #1
Niles, MI 49120

John & Kate Hebner
5807 Daniel Boone Trail
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Barb Radewald
1117 Broad Street Apt. 6D
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Norma Stover
114 N. Kimmel Street
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Gene & Pat Schmaltz
2025 Rocky Weed Drive
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Barb Quiriconi
1000 Village Ctr. Dr. #416
Burr Ridge, IL 60527-4562

Marlene Mitchell
13028 Burgoyne Road
Buchanan, MI 49107

Marcina Hoge
4762 Derby Circle
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Not Your Hallmark Christmas

By Linda Lakey (reprinted with permission www.familylife.com)

I love a good romance. I'm more than happy to curl up with a blanket and a bucket of popcorn and waste an entire day watching chick flicks. Throw in a snowy day, a Christmas mix-up, and a happy ending? You had me at Hallmark.

My husband, not so much. If nothing's being blown up, shot down, or wrecked (apparently emotions don't count here), he's out.

That's a pretty good picture of who we are.

I entered marriage with a Hallmark Christmas mentality. I wanted to experience love and laughter with a cute guy (nailed that part!) and experience my happily ever after. Sure, we'd have a few arguments here and there that would threaten to pull us apart, but we'd always find our way back to each other. We were "meant to be."

The problem? Our life often looks more like an action film. There have been car wrecks, verbal blow-ups, and feelings of being shot down by the one we love the most. And y'all, it rarely even snows here.

But that's reality. Hallmark movies, in all their fun, are fake. Reality? It's not so bad. It's been filled with laughs, romance, miracles, and struggles that made us stronger.

The problem would come if I compared my marriage (especially my husband and our romance level) to the fake standards of what I see in a Christmas flick.

My husband may not be an undercover prince with a castle in some unnamed European country, but he is a strong provider for our family, loves me despite my many faults, and gets my sense of humor. We may not have the mounds of snow, but we've shared carriage rides around a town square and snuggled by a fire during an ice storm (but then we lost power for two days and it was crazy cold).

Bottom line? Trade that Hallmark movie mentality for a real love story. Enjoy the romance flicks, but love your own romance more.

THE GOOD STUFF: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great job that will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

ACTION POINTS: Grab a couple of mugs of cocoa, curl up by the fireplace, and recall your own romantic moments. How did you meet? How did he propose? What stands out in your own personal Hallmark movie?

For other articles on marriage visit www.familylife.com



Andrews University Physical Therapy Program

This year the Andrews University Physical Therapy program opened a teaching physical therapy clinic on campus. Many people do not know what physical therapy can do for them. Here at the AUPT Clinic, we offer hands-on solutions to pain-based problems outside of pills, injections, or surgeries. We want to help the people in this community overcome limitations and get back to doing the things they love.

Those that have come to our clinic this year have had fantastic results because our students are able to give them so much individualized attention under the direct supervision of our expert faculty who are doctors of physical therapy. If anyone in your church community is suffering from a physical limitation from pain or anything else, they don't have to wait to get help. They can schedule with us and be seen within the week.

Physical therapy is a doctorate-educated, direct access profession; this means that people don't need to have an order from a medical doctor to go to see a doctor of physical therapy. Doctors of physical therapy are trained to identify and diagnose physical conditions and are experts in treating these conditions; they are also trained to identify when a problem is not appropriate for physical therapy treatment and can refer those who need it to the appropriate healthcare provider. At the AUPT Clinic we can do all of that.

This is why the AUPT Clinic is such a unique and wonderful service being offered right here in Berrien Springs. Our mission is to offer affordable physical therapy services to those in the community who need it. We welcome anyone who has a physical need and is seeking help. But it is our goal to remain affordable to those who don't have health benefits or who have run out of health insurance coverage.

In order to keep our rates low, we do not contract with any insurance companies. This means we do not bill insurance directly and all of our patients pay for services out-of-pocket. Yet, that doesn't mean that those who do have insurance cannot submit the medical receipt that we give them for reimbursement on their own. However, insurance is not our goal. Our focus is to be an affordable out-of-pocket option for those in the community who need it.

Because of how we have structured our clinic, and because we are not seeking profit, we are able to offer rates significantly under market value; an Evaluation is \$80 and any additional follow-up visit is \$35. Additionally, we understand that some people have conditions that require continual treatment which can cause a significant financial burden. So we have a policy that if someone exceeds 20 visits at our clinic and still needs treatment for the same condition that we only charge \$20 per visit. We call this our \$20 after 20 promotion.

Yet, due to the crazy events of this past year, we have had a hard time reaching those who need our services and we have not met our financial benchmarks to support the clinic. I have been told that we are offering more value than what we are charging and that we should raise our rates. So far I have been able to avoid raising rates though. Right now my goal is to fill our clinic schedule by doing whatever it takes to reach the community. I believe in our mission and know that if we can reach the right people who need our services that these people will come and we will meet our financial needs. Then we will be able to continue to bless this community with high-quality healthcare services at an affordable out-of-pocket rate.

Contact Jillian Zollinger (zollinge@andrews.edu) for more information.

Free Teletherapy Counseling and Psychological Services

Depression, unresolved grief, marital, child/adolescent or other problems? Andrews Community Counseling Center on the campus of Andrews University offers a wide range of counseling and psychological services to individuals, families, couples and groups **free of charge**. Our professionally trained graduate students are supervised by experienced supervisors. To ensure safety during the pandemic, we are providing services using secure teletherapy, via Zoom. Please call our confidential number to request services or leave a message for call back: 269-471-6238. Please click the link below for a brochure regarding the services offered:



<https://www.andrews.edu/sed/gpc/counseling/accc-orange-brochure--2021-spring-.pdf>



January 2021



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 <i>Happy New Year</i> | 2 |
| 3 8 & 10:30am Worship | 4 TLS Classes Resume | 5 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Ladies Aid Meeting | 6 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship | 7 <i>Church Council</i> 7pm Council Meeting | 8 | 9 |
| 10 8 & 10:30am Worship | 11 7pm Elder Meeting | 12 10:30am Women's Bible Study | 13 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 8 & 10:30am Worship | 18 | 19 10:30am Women's Bible Study | 20 10:30am Men's Bible Study Tidings Articles Due 7pm Worship | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 8 & 10:30am Worship | 25 | 26 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Christian School Board | 27 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8 & 10:30am Worship | | | | | | |

Stephen Ministry

With the likely ongoing challenges of Covid-19 impacting Stephen Ministry, the decision has been made to put our program on hold at this point in time. We hope that when the pandemic's effects have lessened that it can start up again and move forward in offering ongoing, confidential care and support to those dealing with life's challenges and changes.



Soup Kitchen Funds Needed

We are needing to replenish our Soup Kitchen funds. If you would like to give to this outreach program please put "Soup Kitchen" in the memo line of your check and drop into the offering plate or mail to the church office.



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

Ladies Aid Mites

The Ladies Aid Mites collection box is located in the Gathering Place. Please remember to leave your Mites there. Barb Priest will be collecting them.



Thank You!



Worship for Shut-Ins is a 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service produced new every week by Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Southwest Michigan -
Sunday 11:00 am - WHME-TV46
Sunday 12:30 pm - Comcast 138 [TLN]



Articles and Calendar dates for the February Tidings are due by January 20, 2021 at noon.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
REMEMBER:
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

Service Person for
January –

AMT 3 Camille Crabtree
1664 Weeksville Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27969

Please consider sending Camille a note of encouragement during this month.

