

# Family Connection

January 9, 2012

A Weekly Publication of Christ's Family Church

Volume X— Issue # 1

*The mission of Christ's Family Church is to lead people to Christ, to equip them for service in the Kingdom of God, and to send them out to reach others with the Gospel, that God may be glorified.*

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE & DEATH

A year ago I had the privilege of losing one of my best friends. This was a man I could call anytime day or night and he was always ready to lend me a helping hand. He was there for me physically, mentally and spiritually. This was a man I sincerely loved and respected! I had the honor of visiting with him during the last few hours on this earth and then the honor of helping to lay him to rest in a peaceful southern Iowa cemetery.

Now why would I say I had the privilege of losing such a person? Let me take you back to about 1976. I was working with a gentleman who had a gravely ill mother. He was a man of strong faith and truly loved his mom. One day I walked by his desk and he was staring off in the distance with somewhat of a smile on his face. I immediately stopped to see if he was okay and he assured me he was. Then I asked about his mother and he acknowledged he had just received word she passed away.

Most of us would be extremely saddened with this news but he was surprisingly happy! Why could he be this way? He then shared with me his mother had three goals in life: 1) to have a healthy family, 2) to have a successful farm and 3) to reach Heaven. He smiled and said "Today she has achieved all three goals". At first I had a hard time accepting this. I was like so many others – selfish, knowing I would someday miss my mother. It was evident his mother had reached her eternal resting place just as my mother would do some day. So yes, it was a privilege to lose my friend for I know he also is now safe in the arms of our Heavenly Father. What more could I want for this special man!

This experience greatly changed my way of accepting the death of a loved one. In John 3: 3 Jesus says that unless you are born again you cannot see the Kingdom of God. This scripture continues to say (3:16) that everyone that believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

Hebrews 9: 27-28 says just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly awaiting him.

Have you renewed your faith in God?

Respectfully,  
Dan Stansberry, Deacon

**Men's Breakfast**—Saturday, January 21st 7:30-9:30 in the Family Life Center. All men of the church are welcome for breakfast and Bible study.

## Dinner Groups

Dinner Groups are a great opportunity to meet and get better acquainted with other members of your church family over a series of 3-4 meals. They are an ideal way for new families to get to know others and for long time members to get to know those who are new. The Dates for this year are the weeks of: Feb. 5, Feb. 26, Mar. 25, April 22. Sign up in the church lobby before January 23 to participate. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or a consistory member. We hope you will participate if you are able.

## THIS WEEK

<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 p.m.	Lunch w/ the Bunch
	6:00 p.m.	Family Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance Class
<b>Thurs.</b>	6:00 p.m.	Elder's mtg.
	7:00 p.m.	Consistory
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball
<b>Saturday</b>	8:30 a.m.	Women's W.O.V.E.N. Fellowship
	6:00 p.m.	Hang Time Jr. & Sr. High & families

## January 15—21

<b>Sunday</b>	8:15 a.m.	Adult Class
	9:30 a.m.	Worship
	10:50 a.m.	Sunday Learning
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Adult Volleyball
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:00 p.m.	Family Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance Class
<b>Thursday</b>	6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee mtg.
<b>Friday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball
<b>Saturday</b>	7:30 a.m.	Men's "Son Rise" B & B

## Prayers:

**Marilyn Barnhill**—sister of Shirley Peterson was laid to rest last week

**Rena Van Wieren**—sister in law of Sara Eriks was laid to rest last week

**Theresa Merema**—Aunt of Tim Schaver was laid to rest last week

**Nadine Roehlk**—Scott's Mother, was laid to rest on Monday

**John Hegwein**—bone marrow biopsy Jan. 10, then 6 months of chemo

**Joy Van Dam**— Shirley DeWys mother fell before Christmas. She has 2 stress fractures of her pelvis one on each side.

**Karla**—Carol Kuehl's daughter, rapid heartbeat has a medical name (supra ventricular tachycardia). Her choices for correcting this are: take a medication the rest of her life or have surgery. Pray for guidance for her and her doctor in making a decision for treatment.

**Lois Black**—friend of Linda Shoesmith, had a serious stroke which left her paralyzed on the right side, moved to Rock Island facility.

**Greg Lundgren**—His brother's wife Vicki has stage 4 brain tumor, his Mother fell and broke her wrist and two vertebra

Praise the Lord and thank you for your generous donations in December. In December, Christ's Family Church received \$98,967 in offerings! This left us with only a small deficit for the year of \$5,148. Final financial statement for the year will be available at the information desk by Sunday, Jan 23 and will be in February newsletter.

2011 General Fund offerings:	\$545,955
2011 Other income:	\$ 20,661
2011 General Fund expenses:	\$571,804
General Fund Year end:	(\$ 5,148)

**Opportunities to Learn**

***Do you want to begin a journey into the Bible...want to grow closer to God?***

We have the perfect place to begin your journey...a Sunday morning learning program called **THE ROAD**. This program starts with a simple explanation of the Bible and takes you progressively deeper into the Bible, helping you develop a closer relationship with God...

**STEP 1 is called THE WAY:** This is a great class for beginners...it is a video/workbook class that gives you an overview of the Bible so you can discover the overarching story it tells.

**STEP 2 is called THE TRUTH:** In this series of 7 studies you begin to really dive into the Bible, breaking it open to discover what being a disciple of Jesus Christ is all about.

**NOTE:** *Because of the length and depth of these studies this step is spread out over more than one program year.*

**STEP 3 is called THE LIFE:** In this part of your journey you will put what you have learned into practice as you explore the keys to having "life to the full" – serving, prayer and sharing our love for Christ with others.

*They asked each other "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*  
*Luke 24:32*

**For those who have completed the journey on THE ROAD** we have a class called **Bible by The Book**. The first book we are studying is Acts – a book that emphasizes the workings of the Holy Spirit, and the changes in people made possible through His power. It is the story of very ordinary people doing extraordinary things, all through faith and the power of God's Holy Spirit.

**What, Where & When:**

**Sundays @ 10:50 am**

**THE WAY – The Stranger on The Road to Emmaus – Sanctuary**

**January 15:** Chapters 11.1-Tempted; 11.2-Power and Fame

**January 22:** Chapters 11.3-Nicodemus; 11.4-Rejection

**January 29:** Chapters 11.5-The Bread of Life; 12.1-Filthy Rags; 12.2-The Way

**February 5:** Chapters 12.3-Lazarus; 12.4-Hell

**THE TRUTH – Design for Discipleship – FLC Conference Room**

**January 15:** DFD book 3-Chapter 3: Faith and the Promises of God

**January 22:** DFD book 3-Chapter 3: Faith and the Promises of God

**January 29:** DFD book 3-Chapter 4: Knowing God's Will

**February 5:** DFD book 3-Chapter 4: Knowing God's Will

**THE LIFE –Live A Praying Life – FLC Room 201**

**January 15:** Week 7: Waiting On God

**January 22:** Week 8: Seeking After God

**January 29:** Week 9: The Promise of Prayer

**February 5:** Week 10: Faith Is Required

**Bible by THE Book – Acts – FLC Rooms 202/203; FLC Room 201 @ 8:15 am**

**January 15:** Chapter 15: Acts 15 – Dealing With Disputes

**January 22:** Chapter 16: Acts 16 – Into New Territory

**January 29:** Chapter 17: Acts 17 – Among The Philosophers

**February 5:** Chapter 18: Acts 18 – Staying Put and Traveling On

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**Sunday, January 29th 9:30 a.m.  
Student Led Worship**

- Lead Usher: Dave Schafer**
- Nursery: Molly Truesdell, Keely & Ali Dykstra**
- Ambassadors: Reg & Linda Shoemith**
- Information Desk: Wendy Ballou**
- Exit Greeters: Wayland Bauer, Jackie Baumgarten**
- Coffee Pot Clean Up: Tom & Becky Schuetz**

**Opportunities to Learn continued**

***Does it seem like money disappears faster than a morning mist?***

You can learn 4 biblical principles that will help you to live confidently and freely even in uncertain economic times. Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm beginning January 11<sup>th</sup> for a DVD study designed to provide encouragement, practical instruction and biblical insight on finances. *Surviving Financial Meltdown* will meet in FLC room 201 and be led by Don Kincaid.

**FAMILY NIGHT OUT STARTS ON JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Wednesday nights will be Family Night Out...**dinner will be ready and waiting for you to share with your church family at **6:00 pm in the Family Life Center gym**. You don't need to bring anything...just show up and enjoy!

**What's for Dinner?**

January 11: Hotdogs, chips, fruit and dessert

January 18: Tacos, fruit, dessert

January 25: Pizza and dessert

**At 6:30 pm** there is something available for just about everyone:

+There will be play time (child care) available in the nursery for children kindergarten age and younger (if you can contribute towards the cost of providing this service it will be greatly appreciated – but if you can't please take advantage of this service anyway...we want you to come!).

+Kids ages 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy *Circle of Friends*

+6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth will experience *Controlled Chaos*

+Adults can choose from several opportunities to be spiritually fed:

-Those who are musically inclined can check out what choir is all about in the main sanctuary.

-Find out what the Bible says about finances in *Surviving Financial Meltdown*. This class will meet in FLC room 201.

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**Opportunities for Fellowship**

**Lunch w/ the Bunch—January 11th & January 25th**

Join us Wednesday, January 11th at noon. The menu is: Cranberry Chicken Breast w/ Rice, Seven Layer Salad, Peanut Butter Brownies and drink.

January 25th menu: Mom's Meatloaf, Potato Logs, Cole Slaw, Key Lime Pie and drink. Meals are \$5 each. Sign up at the information desk if you plan to attend.

**Lunch w/ the Bunch—January 11th**

Join us Wednesday, January 25th at noon. The menu is: Cranberry Chicken Breast w/ Rice, Seven Layer Salad, Peanut Butter Brownies and drink for \$5. Please sign up at the information desk if you plan to attend.

**W.O.V.E.N.**

**(WOMEN OF VIRTUE, ENCOURAGEMENT AND NURTURING)**

**PURSE FOR ALL SEASONS**

**WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?**

**WHO: Women of All Ages**

**When: Saturday Morning, January 14, 2012**

**Time: 8:30 am – 10:00 am**

**WHERE: CFC Life Center**

**Join us for a wonderful program, devotions, refreshments, door prizes and great fellowship. Free babysitting provided.**

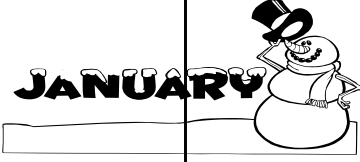
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**Sunday, February 5th 9:30 a.m.**

**Message: "The Faith of the Centurion"**

**Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13**

- Greeters/Doors:**
- Bulletins: Bruce & Sharon McElhinney**
- Lead Usher: Steve Keller**
- Ushers: Steve Keller, Bob Norton**
- Projectionist: Tyler Akker**
- Video: Josh Meyer**
- Nursery: Trina & Connie Hanssen**
- Information Desk: Shirley DeWys**
- Exit Greeters:**
- Coffee Pot Clean Up: Tom & Becky Schuetz**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8</b> 9:30 Worship, 12:00 Pizza Day,  7:00 Sr. High	<b>9</b>  	<b>10</b> 6:30 Adult Volleyball	<b>11</b> 12:00 Lunch w/ the Bunch, 6:00 Family Dinner, 6:30 Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance class	<b>12</b> 6:00 Elder's, 7:00 Consis- tory	<b>13</b>  7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>14</b> 8:30 W.O.V.E.N.,  6:00 Hang Time
<b>15</b> 9:30 Worship, 10:50 Sunday Learning, I Believe class  7:00 Sr. High	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:30 Adult Volleyball	<b>18</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl, 6:00 Family Dinner, 6:30 Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance class	<b>19</b> 6:30 Worship Committee mtg.	<b>20</b>  7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>21</b> 7:30 Men's "Son Rise" B & B
<b>22</b> 9:30 Worship, 10:50 Sunday Learning,  7:00 Sr. High	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  6:30 Adult Volleyball	<b>25</b> 12:00 Lunch w/ the Bunch, 6:00 Family Dinner, 6:30 Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance class	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>28</b> 9:30 Strategic Plan mtg.
<b>29</b> 9:30 Student Led Worship, 10:50 Sunday Learning, 5:00 Chili supper	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:30 Adult Volleyball	<b>1</b> 10:00 Prayer Shawl, 6:30 Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  7:00 Men's Basketball	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship, 10:50 Sunday Learning, 12:00 Pizza Day, 7:00 Sr. High  <b>Torri to Bethel</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  6:30 Adult Volleyball	<b>8</b> 12:00 Lunch w/ the Bunch, 6:00 Family Dinner, 6:30 Choir, Circle of Friends, Jr. High, Finance class	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  7:00 Men's Basketball  <b>PT gone</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 W.O.V.E.N.

Sunday, January 15th 9:30 a.m.

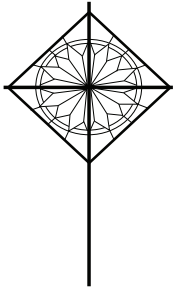
Sunday, January 22nd 9:30 a.m.

Message: "Get's My Goat"  
 Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Greeters/Doors: Ron & Valarie Hessel, Patrick Martin  
 Bulletins: Doug & Joyce Taylor  
 Lead Usher: Dave Schafer  
 Ushers: Greg VerMeer, Dave Schafer  
 Projectionist: Kyle Akker  
 Video: Sam Reynolds  
 Nursery: Mary Akker, Sue & Rachel Basala  
 Ambassadors: Bruce & Sandy Houzenga  
 Information Desk: Karen Ullrich  
 Exit Greeters: Mike & Ruth Senneff, Bob Taylor  
 Coffee Pot Clean Up: Rick & Diane McAnally

Message: "Turn Over New Leaf"  
 Scripture: John 3:1-10

Greeters/Doors: Bob Driscoll, La Juan Gault, Don & Nancy Kintz  
 Bulletins: Jerry & Elaine Phillips  
 Lead Usher: Dave Schafer  
 Ushers: Byron Baxter, Kyle Akker  
 Projectionist: Tom Schuetz  
 Video: Rachel Basala  
 Nursery: Margaret Baxter, Mary Doerder, Jensen Bloomfield  
 Ambassadors: Jim & Becky Meurs  
 Information Desk: Jean Fender  
 Exit Greeters: Bruce & Sheryl VerMeer, Don Kincaid  
 Coffee Pot Clean Up: Dick & Sue Kvach



# Family Connection

Published weekly by:  
Christ's Family Church  
4601 Utica Ridge Road  
Davenport, Iowa 52807  
(563) 359-3765  
www.christsfamilychurch.org

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Bettendorf, IA

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Pastor Brian Akker  
Pastor Tim Truesdell

Worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

## Youth Ministry

### Sr. High (The Oasis) – Sunday nights 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the youth room

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – “World vs. Christian: Prayer”  
Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – “A 1,000 Questions”  
Jan. 29 – Chili Supper @ 5:00 p.m. (Fundraiser for summer trips)

Student Leaders will meet every Sunday night in January at 6:00 p.m. to prepare the Student-Led Worship Service on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Jr. High (Controlled Chaos) – Wednesday nights 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the youth room

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – “Knowing Jesus”  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – “Self-Control with Brothers and Sisters”  
Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – “Getting Along with Parents”

### Hang Time

Saturday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
All Jr. and Sr. High students (and their parents) are invited to hang out in the Family Life Center for a night of games, fun and food. Volleyball, dodge ball, board games, and video games! Bring a snack to share!

### I Believe....

Is a program for youth who are ready to take the next step... to commit to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ and to make a commitment to the body of believers at Christ's Family Church. For 8 weeks parents and students will sit down together and have a regular opportunity to talk about their belief in God and what that means. Each family will have a mentor to walk along side them in the process... someone who will listen and answer questions.... Who will support them as they seek to explore what it means to follow Christ.

The program will start Sunday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> with an initial informational meeting for all students and parents during the Sunday School hour (10:50-11:50 a.m.) in the youth room on the lower level of the Family Life Center.

For more information contact Sandy VerMeer at [svermeer87@yahoo.com](mailto:svermeer87@yahoo.com) or Torri Vande Zande at [torrivz@gmail.com](mailto:torrivz@gmail.com). Please contact us if you would like to participate.

### Chili Supper! - Sunday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center

This is a fundraiser for the Sr. High students to earn money to go on their summer trips. We have two needs:

1. Donations of chili
2. People to attend

If you would like to donate chili or sign up to attend, please sign up at the youth ministry table in the lobby of the church or email Sandy Schafer at [sandyschafer71@gmail.com](mailto:sandyschafer71@gmail.com) or Torri Vande Zande at [torrivz@gmail.com](mailto:torrivz@gmail.com)

### THANK YOU

Many thanks to all of you who prayed for my granddaughter, Gabrielle Kuehl, during the time she was fighting severe pneumonia. Our son Doug said the doctors were amazed how quickly her lung cleared up and re-inflated. I know God made me aware of this being a teaching moment for our son. I told him, “You could have told the doctors that it was because of all the prayers sent to Him for her healing. Just think of all the people/churches who were praying for her...not only our church family, but many of the churches in Fairfield where their family's friends are involved.” I thank God for answering all of these prayers.  
~Carol Kuehl

Thank you to so many of you! Words cannot begin to express how much the many, many cards and condolences we received after the death of Mary's mother meant to us. It demonstrated to us that the members of Christ's Family Church are truly a caring family as we share in our sorrows. The many prayers for us are the reason we have been able to walk through this difficult path with confidence in the promises of life with God in a better eternal life, knowing that our mother is happy beyond belief in His presence.

~Lowell & Mary Doerder and family

Thank you to all that joined us on Dec. 9 for Christmas Caroling, we had a great turn out and all were blessed. Please mark your calendar for next year!

Thank you to those who sent cards, expressed sympathy, or offered prayers for the loss of my brother. Wayne Tegeler. Also, thank you to Pastor Tim for taking the time to attend Wayne's memorial service. All of these actions were a great comfort to our family.

~Bruce & Sandy Houzenga

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## WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Take a look at this line of type:

**GODISNOWHERE**

Did you read it as “God is nowhere”?

Or are you an optimist who read it as “God is now here”?