



New Life Fellowship The Life Line

**JANUARY
2024**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Please pray for the person or family that is listed each day on the calendar.	HAPPY NEW YEAR! 1 W. Prior D. Anvik President Biden	Prayer 10 AM 2 Bible Study 1 PM S. Ericksrud C. Stallman Governor Burgum	3 D. Messner B. Finneman C. Jorgenson	4 J. Broschat Pastor Kapelle S. Thomas	5 H. Ehlers E. Jorgenson United States	6 J & K Neidinger L. Stallman D. Benson
7 Serv. 10:30 AM	8 L. Bjorlie K. Gleason V. Enstad S. Walters	Prayer 10 AM 9 Bible Study 1 PM Marlo Tweed L. Stangeland	10 L. Hoffarth J. Tangedal F.R.E.E. Int.	11 J. Schmidt J. Schweiger L. Quam	12 B. Wegener J. Bjorlie J. Stormes	13 C. Bjornson Pastor D. Banja J. Yri
POTBLESS 14 Serv. 10:30 AM	15 B. Lent Connie Ericksrud L. Alfson	Prayer 10 AM 16 Bible Study 1 PM Devin Ryan C. Almie B. McKelvey	ANNUAL 17 MTG 7 pm Gospel 4 Asia A. Gleason	18 J. & J. Neidlinger A. Weis C. Gust	19 A. Johnson A. Ehlers W. Halverson	20 K. Rickford O. Gleason L. Dahl
21 Serv. 10:30 AM	22 R. Bjornson FaHoCha S. Hanson	Prayer 10 AM 23 Bible Study 1 PM A. Lee N. Swenson J. Cudworth	24 Ladies' Event 7 PM J. Ness R. Berg	25 Arlene Ehlers J. Messner D. Carlson	26 J. Stangeland L. Waldo H. Messner	Men's Breakfast 27 9 AM J. Denny Beauclairs
28 Serv. 10:30 AM	29 C. Bergstad Teen Challenge J. Estenson	Prayer 10 AM 30 Bible Study 1 PM S. Chiang T. Anderson	31 J. Kenner C. Douglas J. Parker	01—Lyle Dahl 02—Jeslin Stangeland 02—Keving Gleason 04—C & E Douglas 06—Caleb Parker 09—Rebecca Anvik	09—Danielle Anvik 12—Harvey Anvik 12—Bud McKelvey 22—Spencer Hanson 24—Bentley Barclay 27—Warren Halvorson	29—Virginia Enstad 29—Krista Denny

Happy New Year

Another year is gone and now we look ahead desiring to mature in our faith and to move forward in seeking to fulfill the purpose that is on the heart of our Heavenly Father.

Matthew 5 tells of the principles Jesus taught his disciples. "Blessed are the...", and he goes on to mention several different topics. To be blessed means "to be happy, to be envied, spiritually prosperous with life, joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation" (Amplified Version). When we realize how spiritually bankrupt we are until we come to know Jesus Christ as our Savior, only then will we desire to be filled with Jesus and His Word. That is how to be truly blessed!

This scripture reminds me of what Paul said about wanting to know Christ (Phil. 3:10-14). Funny how he felt there was so much more to know and understand about Jesus even after writing such a great portion of the Scriptures. There is a song we sang in my younger days that said, "The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows." These might seem like just words to you now, but the reality is that until you and I walk with Him day by day, we will never know how much there is yet to understand about our Lord, Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Sustainer, Rock, Fortress, Peace, Joy, Comfort, Strength, Conqueror, Wisdom, Life, Hope, and on we go.

Serving God only when things go well will bring a limited understanding of how truly awesome God really is. No matter what we have or don't have in material things means nothing compared to knowing Christ and faithfully walking with Him all the days of our lives.

Love ya, Pastor Jeff

SOUP & SANDWICH POTBLESS

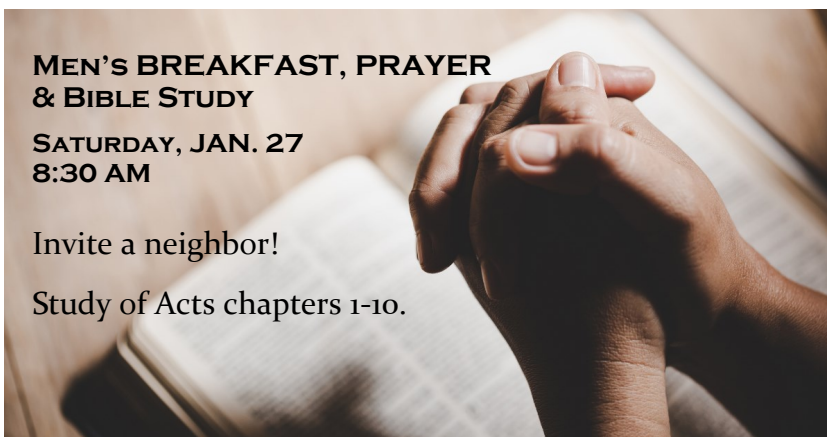


SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 (following service)
 Bring your favorite soup, sandwich, salad or dessert!

JANUARY 1—FEBRUARY 9

40 DAYS
 OF PRAYER
 & FASTING

Consider joining us for 40 days of prayer and fasting. You're welcome to participate as much as the Lord leads you to.



A Visiting We Will Go...

If you'd love to bless some sweet folks, consider joining Pastor Jeff as he shares at the nursing home in McVille on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 2:00 p.m. They would so enjoy your fellowship!

Worship Services:	Service 10:30 AM
Pastor Jeff Kapelle:	262-4446; 351-2043 2443 91st Ave NE, Tolna, ND 58380
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Are you displeased with the retention of your Bible reading? Allow the counsel in this article to help.

Used with permission from Dennis Gunderson (author of "The Praying Church") of Crossover Bible Church, Tulsa, OK

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ...", we're told (Col 3:16).

David says, "I have stored up Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

A terrific aspiration. I want to go beyond that, as I'm sure David did, too. I store it up so that I will know God better and walk in holiness before Him.

But so often, I read and it feels like so little is retained. It doesn't feel like it's dwelling richly in me. It doesn't seem to be stored up in me. Psalm 1 suggests that, for the people who make meditation a daily rhythm of their life, there will be changes for the better. Not instant ones. But noticeable ones. Noticeable like a tree. That's slow change, but immense change. Whether you can remember what you read this morning or not, what matters is, are you a different person due to the impact of the Word of God on your life than you were two, five, ten years ago. Maybe in some ways you feel like a worse person. A more flawed disciple. Maybe you are only seeing more clearly where your sins are.

I encourage you that, if you're exposing yourself to the Word of God as a habit, putting it in your mind, don't trust your feelings about the impact it's having. Trust His promise: He says it produces fruit and won't return void (without accomplishing anything). And just a few counsels that can make it more likely you will keep some of the Word you read with you:

1) Refuse the habit of multi-tasking while reading the Word

Don't try to do this while doing something else. If reading on a computer or phone makes it too easy to "switch screens" in mid-text, then bail on that method and go back to a print Bible without anything else in your hand or near you. Leave your phone in another room. Solitary focus will cause you to retain more of what you read.

You will say, "Sometimes I have no choice but to read with distractions." I get that. You can't always control your environment. That's all the more reason to intentionally set aside some specific times when you can control it and when you're not distracted by anything. The occasions that you will be distracted are many and inevitable. So, make times when you won't be.

2) Respond to what you read

Put at least something you read to an immediate use. Is there a verse that conveys something wonderful about God? Praise Him for it. Is there a verse that convicts you of sin? Ask Him for grace to forsake that sin and resolve in His presence to do so. Is there a verse that confounds you? Write it down and plan to come back and study it later. The words of the verse that you don't even understand might be the one that sticks with you the most, because it bugs you that you don't understand it!

3) Don't always read the same way or same length

If it's your habit to read one chapter a day, or two, or four, don't feel obliged to follow the plan the same way at all times. Your plan isn't "inspired." If you want to read more some days, satisfy your hunger and do that. On other days, get stuck on a few verses that capture you and don't move on. Soak in them, like a man who has stepped into a hot tub and doesn't want to get out. Many of my best occasions of retaining more of what I read are the times I broke with the Bible reading schedule and just stopped after two or three verses that impacted me greatly.

4) Talk to somebody about something you read

Sure, this won't happen every day. But on those occasions when you can, vocalize something you read. Let it come out of your own mouth. Meditation drills in much deeper with talk. It'll stick better with you when you do.

And stay realistic. God knows you're a finite creature. He knows your mind can't hold onto lots of things consciously at once. That doesn't mean you haven't kept the Word at all within. It could just mean it's stored for the occasion it's needed, and that occasion is not just this minute. Something else is.

The cumulative impact over the years renews the mind. Don't underestimate the changes happening in you. Keep at it. It's not as fruitless as it feels. This is why habitual exposure is so influential.

And if you say, "Well, I just lose track of what I read because I am not skilled at meditating." Not good at the focus of it. Do you *worry* sometimes? Then you know how to focus. Think about how pre-occupying your worries are. If you know how to worry, you know how to focus and meditate. When you worry, you are clinging to a thought that is causing you pain and refusing to let it go til it hurts you deeply. Do that with the Word at times: cling to the thought and refuse to let it go until it feeds or blesses you deeply. And if you try this and still walk away dissatisfied – it didn't bless you deeply – don't presume its impact is over. Your effort to do that just might make it come back later with great force and affect you.