



# HOPE IN THE 605

November 2023

## Young Adults

by Eric Fjerestad, Youth/Young Adults Director

In our new young adult ministry, **The Grateful Table**, we seek and ask God to help us create a new and meaningful ministry for the young adults in our congregation. What that looks like can be almost anyone's guess! However, we do know that God is working in some incredible ways this year.



We are kicking off with **Open Question Night**. We allow our young adults to ask any questions regarding faith. Anyone can jump in and give their thoughts. After that, we open it up to our pastors to give their thoughts. It is a great night of discussion and a deep dive into your faith.

Our second theme night is called **Theology-on-Tap**. We invite a speaker who is an expert on a topic our young adults face daily. They share their story and how they are working to solve their problems. This night is fun to experience new things and connect our faith in real-world situations.

Our third theme night is called **Faith Unlocked**. This is where we invite guest speakers to share their personal testimonies and real-world experiences of carrying out their faith on a deeper level. We involve our young adults by having them put themselves in the speaker's shoes and see if they can respond as the speaker responds. Then, we invite our students to ask open-ended questions that allow for some great dialog, and we see our young adults put that experience into action in their faith journeys.

Our final theme is called our **Community Nights!** This is where we will pick an activity or sport and do it together as a community and have fun. This is a night where we focus on fellowship and community. It is important to do life together, and what better way to do that than to come together for a little bit of healthy competition?

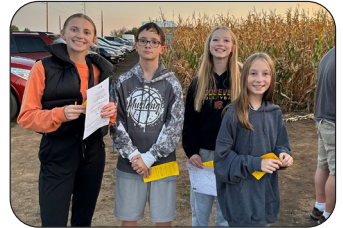
God is working in incredible ways; The Grateful Table is a fun way for our young adults to experience God's love in their everyday lives and have a group around them to trust and support them on their faith journey.

## Youth

by Eric Fjerestad, Youth/Young Adults Director

I'm excited to share exciting things happening in youth group that are allowing God to move in some incredible ways this year!

This summer, we focused on developing relationships among our middle and high school students, and introducing them to a discipleship ministry model that focuses on meeting our students where they are in their faith walk. This discipleship model focuses on relationships, where students know they are cared for and known by their leaders and other students. As a result of students knowing they are cared for, loved, and known, we see students engage in ways we have not seen for a long time. We recently visited the **Heartland Country Corn Maze** and saw this on full display. Students were hanging out in groups of five or more, students invited friends, laughter was happening, and God was working within our students, creating relationships, and a place of belonging.



Another big part of our fall has been launching our new **Youth Worship Service on Wednesday nights**. We believe it is important for our students to learn how to worship and grow closer to God through our youth worship service. Something that came out of our worship experience was the creation of our youth worship team. This team of students help us lead worship every Wednesday, by singing three songs and leading us in prayer time every week. This group consists of singers, drummers, and guitarists who have a love for God and love to connect and worship through song. Seeing students take ownership and come together to worship our Lord and Savior is incredible.



Thank you for loving our students and helping us equip the next generation to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

## Blessed to Be a Blessing

with Pastor Sara Nelson



Levi is a professional breeder for hunting dogs. A few years ago, he committed to auctioning off a well-trained black British Labrador puppy from his most current litter for a charity close to his heart.

Levi had a great litter of puppies that spring, but there was one puppy from the litter that stole his heart. He named the puppy Zeke. Levi planned to keep Zeke as his own.

When the morning of the auction came, the puppy that Levi had planned to auction off was sold. The only puppy that he had left was Zeke. Levi didn't want to back out on the commitment that he had made to the charity, so he decided that he would auction Zeke off. When it came time for Zeke to be auctioned off, Levi was overcome with emotion. He told the crowd how special this dog had become to him. As fellow dog lovers, Chad and Kristi were deeply moved by his story, and they made a decision to buy the dog. A bidding war ensued, and the bidding kept going up, up, and up surpassing Chad's limit. But then Kristi gave Chad the nod to keep going. Chad finally got Zeke at the bargain price of \$2,200.

Immediately after winning the bid, Chad told the auctioneer: "We want to give Zeke back to Levi and his family

because that's where he belongs." Levi was stunned. Chad and Kristi's generosity was something that Levi wasn't expecting. In response to their generosity, Levi gave them a puppy from his next litter. Generosity breeds generosity. Gratitude and generosity can be contagious.

What happened at that auction reminds me of what the Apostle Paul says in the books of Acts: "It is truly more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35b)

Giving is one of the ways that God uses us to bless others. In Genesis 12:1-3, we see this in the call of Abram before God gave him his new name of Abraham. "The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you.' I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)

You know that expression: "blessed to be a blessing"? It comes from this story from Genesis.

As November begins, may we remember that God blesses us to bless others. May we be generous with our time, our talents, and our treasure! In Ministry Together,

*Pastor Sara M. Nelson*

Pastor Sara

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Dinner & Silent Auction**  
**Country Store**  
**Sunday, November 5**  
**10:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., \$15**  
**Free for 4 and under**  
**Dine In OR Take Out!**  
**Dine In @ MPR | Take Out @ Library**

Tickets available Sunday mornings in the lobby, in the church office during the week, or online at [www.sfumc.org](http://www.sfumc.org)

SCAN ME

Address Service Requested

Website: [www.sfumc.org](http://www.sfumc.org)  
 E-mail: [fumc@sfumc.org](mailto:fumc@sfumc.org)

401 S. Spring Avenue  
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4398  
 605-336-3652

Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit #606 Sioux Falls, SD

# Kids

by LuAnn Berkhof, Children's Ministry Director

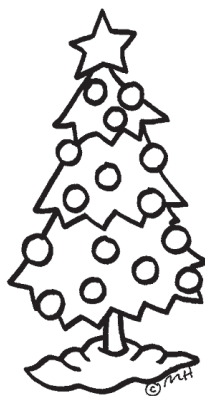
As we leave October we jump into the season of joy! Joy in thankfulness! Joy in advent! Joy in celebrating our Saviors' birth! Joy in welcoming in a new year! Children only make each one of these celebrations more meaningful and memorable.

One year I was teaching my class about Thanksgiving. I remember asking the children how they would make the Thanksgiving meal. I received many unique variations on menu items, recipe concoctions and cooking processes. One of the answers that I have remembered particularly well over the years is from a child who looked strangely at me and said, "You don't make dinner, you get it at McDonald's and always ask for extra french fries."

And I am sure many of you could tell a story or two about how a child made your Christmas more joyful, meaningful, and memorable. Allow me to share just one story that comes to mind. I was listening in on a conversation between a mother and her 5-year-old daughter. The conversation went something like this.

Mother: "Remember it is Christmas time dear, and Santa is watching."

Daughter: "Mom, I don't need Santa anymore, I'm already good. It's Jimmy, (younger brother) who you need to keep convincing that there is a Santa. You still need all the help you can get with that one!"



Yes, children make the holidays brighter! The Kids@First team wants to do our part in providing the gifts of childhood this Christmas. We will begin to learn about Christmas this month. We will also begin learning songs that help us share the Good News of Christmas. We are getting an early start because **ALL** the children of the church, as well as the Youth@First will be presenting a program at 6 p.m. December 20. If you have a child, we encourage you to bring them to Wednesday's Kids Connect at 5:45 p.m. and/or Sunday's Kids Connect. (Kids Choir rehearsal starts at 10:30 a.m.) We need all of you!

Of course, it wouldn't be a Christmas program if it weren't followed by Christmas treats! Everyone is welcome to attend the program and the party to follow.

I am praying your Thanksgiving is filled with extra joy, extra gratitude, and extra french fries!



For more information about these opportunities contact LuAnn Berkhof @ (605) 336-3652 or berkhofl@sfumc.org

## CHURCH FAMILY

### PRAYER CARDS

- Dina Vostad (wife of Jason Vostad)
- JoAnn Espeland (wife of Derald Espeland)
- Pastor Carli Steffes
- Bob & Pat Lewis (parents of Adam Lewis)
- Janet (niece of Chuck and Sherry Kellogg)
- Fran (Friend of Lori Watson)
- Wendy (sister of Sally Tilstra)
- Rachel Leonhardt & Kent (daughter of Jane Leonhardt)
- Megan (great niece of Wanda Williamson)
- Heidi Stricherz-Geranan
- McConniel Family
- Anna Gilbertson (daughter of Traci and Brad Gilbertson)

### BAPTISM

- Aspen Kay Wescott (daughter of Sean Kowalski & Bailee Wescott)

### HOSPICE

- Gary Wolbrink

### DEATH

- Helen Burnison (mother of Carleen (Russell) Hovendick)
- Jim Kieffer (father of Cynthia (Mike) McConniel, grandfather of Alexandra, Jadon & Anastasia Kieffer)
- Deanna Agar (wife of Robert Agar)
- LeRoy Stricherz (brother of Jeff (Rachelle) Stricherz; uncle of Heidi Stricherz-Geranan)

### ATTENDANCE

- Sept 17 In person.....284  
Online .....280
- Sep 24 In person.....279  
Online .....284
- Oct 1 In person.....244  
Online .....272
- Oct 8 In person.....300  
Online .....292

# November

## Gather, Grow, Go!

### GATHER with friends in fellowship:

- Every Sun. – **Worship** @ 8:30 & 9:45 & 11:01 a.m. All ages, nursery provided @ 9:45 & 11:01 a.m.
- Every Sun. – **Kids Connect** @ 9:45 & 11:01 a.m. Kids 4 years - 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Every Wed. – **Family Meals** @ 5 p.m. (No meal or activities Wed. Nov 22)
- Every Wed. – **Parent Walking Group** @ 7 p.m. All are invited
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tue. – **Read @ First** @ 5:30 p.m.
- Sun. Nov 5 - **Gratitude Sunday with Turkey Dinner, Silent Auction, Country Store, and Bloodmobile.**
- Sun. Nov 12 – **Blessing of the Minnesota Avenue Christmas Tree** @ 1:30 p.m.
- Sun. Nov 12 – **CHARGE CONFERENCE** @ 2 p.m.

### GROW in your faith:

- Sun. Nov 12 – **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
- 2 & 4 Sun. – **Grateful Table Young Adult Ministry** @ 6 p.m. 20 & 30 something years
- Every Tue. – **Tuesday Refresh Book Study** @ Noon Everyone
- 1 & 3 Tue. – **Higgins Bible Study** @ 8 a.m. | All are invited
- 2 & 4 Tue. – **AMen's Book Study** @ Noon | All men are invited
- Every Wed. – **Women's Bible Study** @ 9:30 a.m. All women invited
- Every Wed. – **Zoom Bible Study** @ 2:15 pm Call the church office for the Zoom link.
- Every Wed. – Pastor Jordan's **Adult Bible Study** @ 6 p.m. Exploring the Bible and other topics and asking how it applies to our daily lives
- Every Wed. – **Jans Bible Study** @ 6 p.m. Various Book studies
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. – **S.A.G.E.S.** @ 11:30 a.m. | Senior Adults

### GO put your faith into action:

- Wed. Nov 1 – **Feeding SD** Helping end food insecurities @ 5:15 p.m. Serving spots are limited; call the office to sign up.
- Mon. Nov 6 – **Nightwatch** Serving hot meals at Hayward Elementary School @ 5 p.m.
- Sat. Nov 11 – **Habitat for Humanity** Building safe, affordable housing @ 8:30 a.m.
- Tue. Nov 14 – **The Banquet West** Funding, cooking & serving dinner Preparing @ 2 p.m. / Serving @ 5:15 p.m.
- Tue. Nov 21 – **The Banquet Downtown** Funding, cooking & serving breakfast. Preparing @ 5:30 a.m. / Serving @ 6:30 p.m.

