



# Weekly Booster

## CHURCH STAFF

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### Office Manager

Jeff Hiser

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### Pianist

Terry Stafford

## Bells & Choir Directors

Dan & Linnea Shook

## Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Media Booth

Alan Hutchison

Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

## Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

## Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Drew Morelock,

Pastor David



## Why Reading the Bible in a Year is Doable (and More Meaningful Than You Think)

Ever wonder if there's more to reading through the Bible in a year than just checking off a box? Many people start a Bible reading plan as an act of spiritual discipline, and for them, it becomes a rewarding achievement. While your dedication to completing this task may be what initially motivates you, you will soon discover that what God has for you in His Word is so much more than you imagined. His ways are far higher than ours ([Isaiah 55:8-9 To view the link hit Ctrl + click on scripture](#)).

Understanding the deeper significance of reading through all of Scripture may give you both the motivation to begin and the courage to finish. Here are a few reasons you might want to begin your 365-day Bible reading plan today.

### Spiritual growth

Regular Bible reading helps deepen your understanding of God's Word, providing not only biblical knowledge but also strengthening your faith and personal relationship with God. He is at work even when you feel like you are going through the motions. Your mind and heart are formed by the truths of His Word instead of being conformed to the patterns of this world.

*Continued page 2*

*“From a small seed, a mighty trunk may grow.” Aeschylus*

*“If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.” Milton Berel*

### Reminders

#### February 2<sup>nd</sup>

PK-6 S.S.– After Children’s Message  
Jr/Sr High S.S. – 10:30 a.m.  
Confirmation Class – 10:30 a.m.  
Clarinda Lutheran School Annual  
German Dinner – 11:00 a.m.

#### February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mat Making (Loom Room) 1:00 p.m.

#### February 4<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study – 11:00 a.m.  
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.  
Choir Practice – 5:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Practice – 6:30 p.m.

#### February 5<sup>th</sup>

T.O.P.S.  
Meals-On-Wheels Deliveries

**\*\*Worship Assistants are needed  
February 2025**

**\*\* Fellowship Volunteers needed  
sign-up in Fellowship Hall**

### Reading the Bible- Continued from page 1.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. Romans 12:2*

### Consistent discipline

Committing to daily Bible reading fosters discipline and helps build a lasting routine. Choosing a Bible reading plan before you get started will keep you focused and motivated. Without the structure of a plan, especially when navigating difficult sections of the Old Testament, it’s easy to lose momentum. A good plan guides you through even the more challenging parts of Scripture.

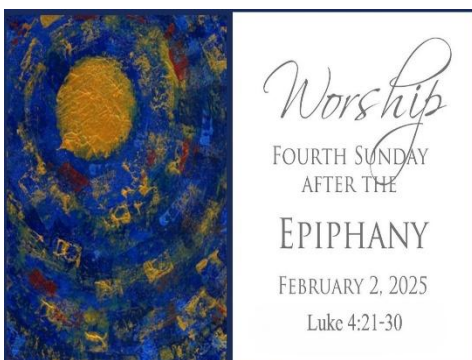
A great resource to consider using is the NIV Daily Scripture. From day one, each reading includes a portion from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and a Psalm or Proverb. Before each day’s reading, a succinct applicational overview section will set the stage for that day’s segment, helping you step right back into where you left off the prior day. You don’t even have to wait until January 1<sup>st</sup> to start; the daily readings are not date-specific, so you can begin your 365-day journey at any point in the year.

*For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-9*

### Broader biblical perspective

One of the greatest lifelong benefits of reading through the entire Bible is gaining a broader understanding of its unifying themes. You begin to see the full story of God’s work throughout history. This comprehensive view reveals how the Old Testament prophecy connects to the life and teachings of Jesus.

The Old Testament may sometimes seem difficult to understand but reading it in context shows the bigger picture. **Continued page 6.**



## Volunteers Needed



**LAST PERSON LEAVING**  
PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS  
AND LOCK DOORS

First United Methodist Church

**Please wear your  
name tag on  
Sunday mornings**



## Church Ad Board Members

*Michelle Morelock - Chair*  
*Mary Peterson - Secretary*  
*Margaret Brady - Vice Chair & Trustee*  
*Roger Jones - Trustee*  
*Bob Lynn - SPRC*  
*Open - Finance*  
*Dave Lashier - Treasurer*  
*Craig Harris - Lay Member to Annual Conference*  
*Connie Anderson - Memorials*  
*Linda Haldane - Membership*  
*David Clark - Pastor*

## Church Office Hours

**\*\* Children & Jr.-Sr. High  
Sunday School –  
PK-6 during service,  
Jr/Sr High 10:30 a.m.**

**Wednesday**

**\*\*Choir –5:30 pm  
\*\*Bell Choir –6:30 pm**

The front door to the church  
will be unlocked during  
office hours and closed only  
for errands and lunch.

**Monday**

9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

**Tuesday**

9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

**Wednesday**

**CLOSED**

**Thursday**

9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

**Friday**

9:00-11:00  
12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in  
advance if you need in the  
church to make sure  
someone is in the office. If  
you reach the answering  
machine please leave  
your name, number, and  
a brief message and your  
call will be returned. Calls  
after 2:00 p.m. may be  
returned the next  
business day.



Who was Abraham's  
firstborn?

- a) Jacob
- b) Isaac
- c) Joseph
- d) Ishmael

To where did Jacob go, to  
escape his brother's fury?

- a) Beersheba
- b) Hebron
- c) Shechem
- d) Haran

Who was Israel's third king?

- a) David
- b) Saul
- c) Solomon
- d) Jeroboam

**Check page 4 for answers from  
the previous week.**



2<sup>nd</sup> – Dan Mauer, Cathy Shull

3<sup>rd</sup> – Libby Ehlers

**\*\*See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the  
office, or send an email to [office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)**

**Shenandoah First United  
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.  
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail  
[office@shen.church](mailto:office@shen.church)

Same address – a new look at  
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,  
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our YouTube  
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

**\*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: Terry Stafford**

**Call to Worship**

**Leader: O God, we have taken refuge in you.**

**People: Free us from the shame that weighs us down.**

**L: Rescue us from the grip of evil.**

**P: You are our hope, O God.**

**L: We depend on you day after day.**

**P: We praise you day after day.**

**“The Controversy of Jesus”**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 4:21-30**

**Songs**

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past #117**

**Come, Now is the Time to Worship #3176**

**They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love #2223**

**Last Week's Attendance**

**In-Person Worship – 74**

**On-Line Worship – 14**

**Our Mission:**

**“Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love.”**

**Our Vision:**

**“We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world.”**

**Answers for January 26<sup>th</sup> are c) three-pronged a) Belshazzar c) Elijah  
Quiz hints – Q1) Genesis Q2) Genesis Q3) no clue for this one**



## **Food Pantry Monthly Needs**

## **February 2025**

Soda Crackers, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Corn, Green Beans, Pineapple, Mandarin Oranges, Cinnamon Applesauce, Chili & Chunky Style Soups, Microwave Popcorn, Hot Chocolate Mix, Any Type of Pasta, Oatmeal, Cereal, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap.

There are times when people who use the Food Pantry come to the pantry on foot. They are then forced to walk home carrying, pushing, or pulling several pounds of food. Southwest Iowa Transit, for a very reasonable fee of \$5.00, will take individuals home with their food items. If you are interested in helping pay for these fees, simply seal your cash (whatever you would like to give) in a plain envelope and add it to your donated food items.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Food Pantry. We exist totally on donations - we couldn't assist those in need without your help!

If you or know of anyone who would be interested in volunteering at the Food Pantry, please have them contact Jeannine K. Liljedahl, at 712-215-2488.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Two Volunteers Needed each Thursday**

**to Deliver Meals**

**Sign-Up Sheet is on the  
Welcome Center Counter**

**Reading the Bible- Continued from page 2.**

You can trace the connection between the law, the covenants, and God's enduring love and plan for his people. All Scripture points toward Christ.

**Encouragement and comfort**

Life's challenges can often shake our faith, but staying grounded in daily Scripture reading helps us remain focused on God's Word and how He is guiding us. In our daily readings, we may be surprised to see how God uses ordinary, sinful people and sometimes tragic circumstances to accomplish His incredible purposes. God is still faithful even in the midst of trials.

We all face hard things in life, and daily Scripture reading strengthens and encourages us to keep going. Choosing a daily reading plan that incorporates selections from Psalms and Proverbs in addition to passages from the Old and New Testaments can be helpful. Reading the psalmist's direct and honest communications with God and the wisdom of Solomon offers consistent encouragement and perspective during tough times.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

**Power of praying Scripture**

Reading God's Word is a powerful practice, often inspiring you to pray. Praying through Scripture allows you to connect deeply with God as you reflect on His words and promises. Allow His Word to wash over your heart and transform your prayers.

*This, then, is how you should pray:*

*“Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.”*

Matthew 6:9-15

## Beginning your daily Scripture reading journey

Many people like to start reading through the Bible at the beginning of a new year when resolutions are made to set the tone for the months ahead. However, there's no "right" time to begin. You can start your Bible reading journey whenever you feel ready, and you can pick up where you left off if you need to take a break.

As you move through the Scriptures outlined in your chosen book or plan, be open to what God will teach you. You'll gain not only biblical knowledge but also personal insights that apply to your life and circumstances. The Holy Spirit may bring a passage to your attention that you can meditate on or think about, bringing new revelation to your life.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16*

While completing a year-long Bible reading plan is an accomplishment, the true reward lies in how it deepens your faith. As you engage with God's Word, you are planting seeds that will bear fruit in the moments you need them most—whether it's recalling stories of faith, finding words of hope, or embracing encouragement. God is always good, and His Word is always accomplished according to His plan.

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11*

Though reading Scripture daily can sometimes feel challenging, especially during difficult times (when we need it most!), there are many tools to help you stay focused and grounded in your faith. Here are some reading plans to consider.

The reading plans include: (to go to the link hit Ctrl + click on the underlined words)

- **Entire New Testament**: Read Scripture with a focus on the life of Jesus and his earliest followers. Explore the practice of praying a Psalm daily.
- **New Testament + Key Old Testament**: Read through the New Testament and the Three Old Testament books most quoted by Jesus. Explore the practice of praying a Psalm daily.
- **Entire Bible**: Read the entire library of Scripture with the Old Testament organized around its original Hebrew order (TaNaK). Explore the practice of praying a Psalm daily.
- **Entire Bible, Mixed**: Read the entire library of Scripture with an alternating focus on Old Testament and New Testament books. Explore the practice of praying a Psalm daily.

22nd Annual Clarinda Lutheran School  
**German Dinner**  
Sunday, February 2, 2025  
Starting at 11 a.m.

**Menu**

Marinated Pork Loins  
Bratwurst  
Bavarian Sauerkraut  
Hot German Potato Salad  
Green Beans with Bacon  
Escalloped Apples  
Homemade German Breads  
German Chocolate Cake  
Peach Kuchen    Lemon Streusel  
Black Forest Cake    Banana Rum Cake

**Clarinda Lutheran School**  
**707 W. Scidmore**  
**Clarinda, Iowa**

Silent Auction opens at 10:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

**This is a benefit dinner for the operational expenses of the educational ministry of Clarinda Lutheran School. Cost of the meal is a free will donation.**

**Make your Reservations on our website:  
[clarindalutheranschool.com/german-dinner](http://clarindalutheranschool.com/german-dinner)**

**Questions? Please call (712) 542-3657**



This is the last Sunday, February 2nd (to make up for missing January 5<sup>th</sup>) for The Noisy Change Offering that is going to Sleep In Heavenly Peace! There are 350 chapters in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and the Bahamas building and delivering beds for kids in need. The goal is to make sure no kid sleeps on the floor. The goal is to help children get the safe, comfortable sleep they deserve. Please bring your change on Sunday mornings and help make sure kids have a bed instead of sleeping on the floor.





Over the next few months, Shenandoah Medical Center will be working together with other area community leaders to update the Page County, IA 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). We are requesting Page County community members' input regarding current healthcare delivery and unmet resident needs. The goal of this assessment update is to understand progress from past community health needs assessments conducted in 2022, 2019, and 2016, while collecting up-to-date community health perceptions and ideas.

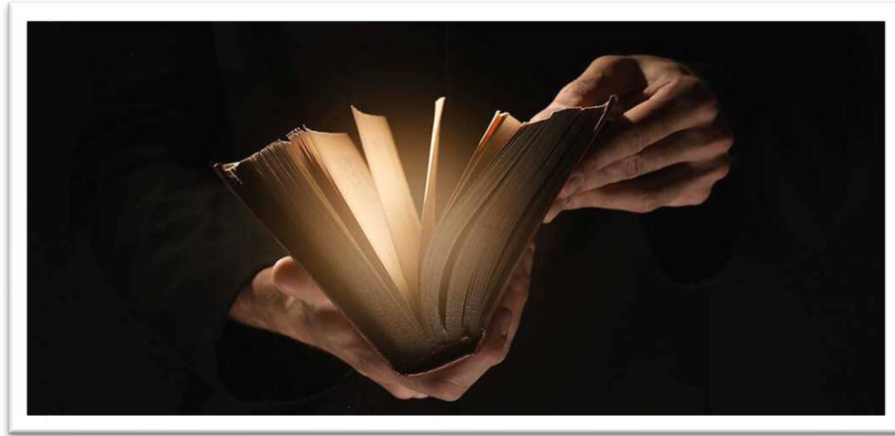
All community residents and business leaders are encouraged to complete this online survey by February 3rd, 2025 (Monday). You may use the direct link below, use the QR code, or follow the link to our website below to access this survey.

Direct Link- [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHNA2025\\_Shenandoah\\_PageCoIA](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHNA2025_Shenandoah_PageCoIA)

SMC Website- <https://www.smchospital.com/community-health-needs.../>

Thank you for your participation!





### Where Did the Order of the Books of the Bible Come From?

The Bible isn't a single book. It's a collection of many books that were written, preserved, and gathered together so that they could be shared with new generations of readers. Reading, of course, is not an end in itself. Especially in the case of the Bible, reading is a means of entering into the story. Overall, the Bible is an invitation to the reader first to view the world in a new way and then to become an agent of the world's renewal. Reading is a step in this journey.

#### **Book Order**

Those who wrote the books of the Bible chose to put them in particular forms, using the literary conventions appropriate to those forms. Many different kinds of writing are found in the Bible: poetry, narrative, wisdom collections, letters, law codes, apocalyptic visions, and more. All of these forms must be read as the literature they are, or else misunderstanding and distortion of meaning are bound to follow.

Take, for example, the books of Samuel–Kings and Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah. The first tells a covenant history, how the kings who led Israel kept violating the covenant God made with his people. This helped the Jews in exile in Babylon understand why they were in exile. The second tells a royal history, how certain kings took care of the temple and the worship of God before the people were sent into exile. This account barely mentions the evil kings, but it still faithfully and completely tells the story of Israel for its purpose: it encouraged the exiles that they would return to their land and a king would rule them again. So, taking whole accounts such as Kings and Chronicles and merging them into chronological order would destroy the specific narrative they are trying to tell.

On the other hand, there are full books in the Bible that would make sense to rearrange into chronological order. Take Paul's letters, for instance. In the current traditional order, they are in order from longest to shortest. They are badly out of historical order, and this makes it difficult to read them

with an appreciation for where they fit in the course of his life or how they express the development of his thoughts.

The Prophets are also placed generally in order of length. But it was not always this way. In ancient times, the keeper of the scrolls in a synagogue would place the “books” of the Bible in cubbyholes in a case. He kept them in the order he was taught or the one he chose. For many centuries, there was no fixed order of scrolls among the synagogues or churches around the world. Even when the codex (an early type of book) was created, the books in the Bible were not in a particular order.

The traditional order of the biblical books can also encourage misunderstandings of what kind of writing a particular work is. For example, the book of James has strong affinities with other biblical books in the wisdom tradition. But it’s typically placed within a group of letters, suggesting that it, too, should be read as a letter.

### **Verse and Chapter Numbering**

For some time now, the Bible has been printed in a format that hides its literary forms under a mask of numbers. These break the text into bits and sections that the authors never intended. The present system of chapter divisions was devised in the thirteenth century, and our present verse divisions weren’t added until the sixteenth.

Chapters and verses have imposed a foreign structure on the Bible and made it more difficult to read with understanding. Chapter divisions typically don’t correspond with the actual divisions of thought. They require readers to make sense of only part of a longer discussion as if it were complete in itself, or else to try to combine two separate discussions into one coherent whole. Moreover, because the Bible’s chapters are all roughly the same length, they can at best only indicate sections of a certain size. This hides the existence of both larger and smaller units of thought within biblical books.

When verses are treated as intentional units (as their numbering suggests they should be), they encourage the Bible to be read as a giant reference book, perhaps as a collection of rules or as a series of propositions. Also, when “Bible verses” are treated as independent and free-standing statements, they can be taken selectively out of context and arranged in such a way as to suggest that the Bible supports beliefs and positions that it doesn’t.

### **The Order of the Books Is Not Sacred.**

For a while, the biblical books were printed in several different orders. Gradually, the order we know today became more and more common until virtually all editions used that specific order.

Some Bibles have been produced that keep the books that were intended to be whole as whole books, but they put those whole books in an order that is more helpful. One example is the *The Books of the Bible*. To help readers overcome the aforementioned difficulties, the editors of this Bible sought to order

the books so that their literary types, their circumstances of composition, and the theological traditions they reflect are more evident.

Specifically, *The Books of the Bible* differs from the most common current format in several significant ways:

- Chapter and verse numbers have been removed from the text
- The books are presented instead according to the internal divisions believed to be what their authors have indicated
- A single-column setting is used to present the text more clearly and naturally and to avoid disrupting the intended line breaks in poetry.
- Footnotes, section headings, and any other additional materials have been removed from the pages of the sacred text.
- Individual books that are later divided into two or more parts are put back together again.
- The books have been placed in an order that we hope will help readers understand them better.

Many readers will gain a deeper appreciation for, and a greater understanding of, the sacred texts using an edition like this which frees the reader from some of the inherent obstacles in our current commonly used format.

*Adapted from the article, "Why is the bible Not in Chronological Order" by John Dunham, Translation Technology Operations at Biblica. NIV Weekly Blog, All Rights Reserved 501 Nelson Place, Nashville, TN 37214, USA, January 27, 2025.*

### Blessing Rice Bag Event – January 26, 2025



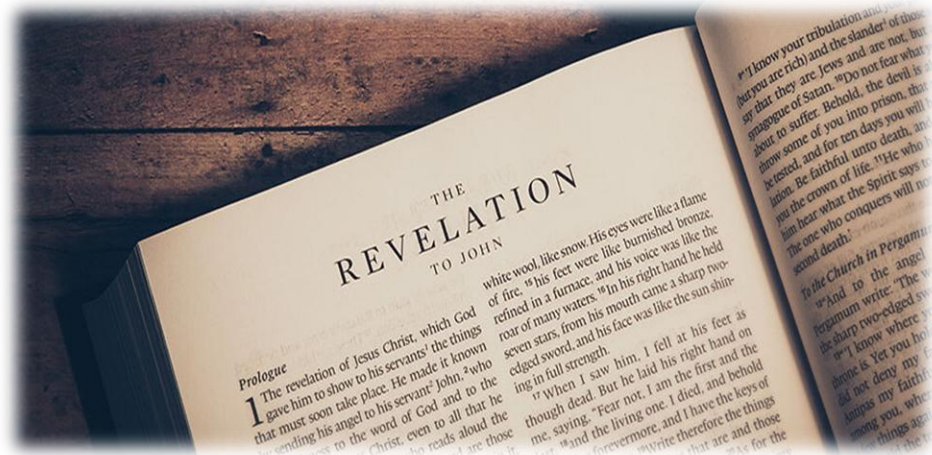


Thank you to all who attended the Blessing Rice Bag event at the church on Sunday! We had 29 helpers!!! We packed enough meals to feed over 2100 people in an hour! Who knew we could make such a difference in such a short amount of time? Midwest Mission is a wonderful group to partner with. If you would like more information on the services they offer, you can visit them at [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org)

The Mission Group

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During our midweek Bible study, we have been working our way through the book of Revelation. This book is full of wild and confusing images. It's a book that creates strong emotional reactions with its many visions. Listen to this passage from Revelation 7:15-8:1:

15 For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. 16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat, 17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

It is striking to me how a pattern of worship, modeled after this vision of heaven, is to just simply be silent. We need this in our world. It feels as though everything has to be commented on, everything needs a social media post, or a perceived need to do something. There is so much noise, and we become so addicted to the noise we lose our ability to recognize the holiness of silence. Simon and Garfunkel write:

And in the naked light, I saw  
 Ten thousand people, maybe more  
 People talking without speaking  
 People hearing without listening

How can you cut out the noise this week so that you might truly listen and speak? How can you cut out the noise to hear the voice of the One calling you the beloved who will guide you to springs of the water of life?

Grace and peace,  
 Pastor David Clark  
 308-258-7749 (cell)