



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Terry Stafford

Choir Director

Sue Jones

Multimedia & Website

Jeff Hiser

Sunday Media Booth

Kris Anderzhon,

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, Jodi Anderzhon



Obedience Always Brings Blessing

He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." — Luke 11:28

The Lord's simple requests often serve as stepping stones to life's most wonderful blessings. Simon Peter illustrates what can happen when we say yes to God.

One day a large crowd pressed around Jesus while he preached (Luke 5:1–11). The Lord wanted to use Peter's boat as a floating platform from which to address the multitude, so he asked the future apostle to push the vessel out a little way from shore (Luke 5:3)—not in itself a particularly remarkable request. But Peter's compliance with his request paved the way for a life-changing blessing. From his example, we also learn how essential it is to obey God in even the smallest matters.

The noisy crowd received the first blessing of Peter's obedience; the people could now clearly hear Jesus' words. At the conclusion of the lesson, the Lord said to Peter, "Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4)—a second opportunity to say yes or no. But this time, Peter may have felt tempted to decline. After all, he was a seasoned fisherman. He had worked the entire night for a catch but had returned empty-handed. Now this young teacher—a carpenter, by the way, not a fisherman—was asking him to go fishing again?

Continued page 2

“Don’t fix the blame, fix the problem.”

Reminders

February 4th

Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

February 5th

Youth, Jr/Sr Sunday School
Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.
HS Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

February 8th

Encountering the New Testament
Study with Pastor David - Noon
Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.
Choir – 6:45 p.m.

February 9th

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

****Worship Assistants are needed
for February 19th & 26th**

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



**Communion Sunday,
February 5th**

Blessing - Continued from page 1

Peter’s reply demonstrates the beginning of a lifetime of faith in God. He said, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I *will* let down the nets” (Luke 5:5, emphasis added). The soon-to-be disciple chose to obey the Lord and to leave the consequences of his decision to him.

But notice what happened as a result of Peter’s obedience—Jesus demonstrated his power and sovereignty. Peter and his partners may have started the day off thinking their efforts had yielded nothing. But they ended it in complete amazement because they pulled in not one but two overflowing boatloads of fish (Luke 5:7). Saying yes to the Lord’s request resulted in a miracle that transformed not only one fisherman’s life but the lives of the entire group.

Consider three reasons why obedience is critical to the successful Christian life:

1. Obeying God in small matters is an essential step in receiving God’s greatest blessings.

Suppose Peter had said, “Look, I’m busy cleaning my nets right now. I can’t help you because I’m going fishing again tonight.” Or he could have said, “Why don’t you ask to use that other boat, over there?” Or “I’ve already been fishing today; it would be a waste of time to go again.” If Peter had said anything other than yes, he would have missed the greatest fishing experience of his life. But because of Peter’s obedience, the Lord arranged a miracle that he would never forget.

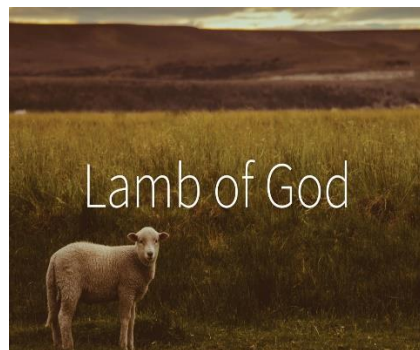
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Often, God’s greatest blessings come as a result of our willingness to do something that appears very insignificant. So, ask yourself, “Has God been challenging me to do something seemingly unimportant that I have not yet made an effort to accomplish?”

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“Love your neighbor. No exceptions.”

Volunteers Needed



Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High**
Sunday School 10:15
Questers (Adults) 10:30

****Chancel Choir –**
 Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
 Sunday 8:30 a.m.

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.



Which apostle didn't believe that the other apostles saw Jesus?

- a) Thomas
- b) Peter
- c) John
- d) James

According to the Word, what makes you strong and established?

- a) training your body
- b) taking vitamins
- c) appropriate eating
- d) righteousness

What sign from God did the servant ask for, when he had to find a wife for Isaac?

- a) rain
- b) water from the rock
- c) the girl has to water him & his camels
- d) the girl must wear a necklace

Check page 4 for answers from the previous week.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



9th – Dustin Christiansen
 10th – Della Staples
 11th – Loreene Whitehill

****See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to office@shen.church**

**Shenandoah First United
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail
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: Praise the Lord!

People: Happy are those who worship the Lord, who delight in God's commandments.

L: The righteous will never be moved;

P: they will be remembered forever.

“A City on a Hill”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Third Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

Songs

We've a Story to Tell #569

Shine, Jesus, Shine #217

Shout to the Lord #2074

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship - 60

Online 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 Jan 29th are b) their faith is proclaimed in all the word a) Prince of Judah a) honey and milk

Quiz Hints – Q1) John Q2) Isaiah Q3) Genesis

Blessing - Continued from page 2

Is there anything I have rationalized by saying, 'It's too difficult,' 'I don't want to' or 'I have to pray about it first'?"

2. Our Obedience always benefits others.

Think of how many people were blessed by Peter's obedience. Not only could the crowd see the Lord and hear his lesson, but Jesus himself also benefited—preaching from the boat enabled him to sit down in comfort while he spoke (Luke 5:3). Then, of course, Peter's friends had a very profitable day—they took in two vessels so full of fish that both began to sink. More importantly, they had the opportunity to witness the Lord's supernatural provision.

God often rewards others—in particular, those closest to us—as a result of our obedience. For example, when a parent obeys the Lord, the entire family reaps the reward of God's blessings. Likewise, a child's obedience will bless his or her parents. This does not mean that those who choose to disobey the Lord will escape his discipline because of someone else's godly walk. His call to obedience always demands our response.

However, when we live obedient lives, those who know and love us will sense the peace and joy he has given us. Instead of conflict, there will be contentment—and that is just one part of experiencing God's goodness.

3. When we obey God, we will never be disappointed.

Peter no doubt assumed that Jesus' fishing instructions would amount to a waste of time. But when he complied with the Lord's simple request, Christ brought about a miracle that gripped the disciple with amazement. Jesus turned an empty boat into a full one. We, like Peter, must recognize that obeying God is always the wisest course of action. He can also take our emptiness—whether related to finances, relationships, or career—and change it into something splendid.

Perhaps you have hesitated to obey God because you fear the consequences of your decision. But the Lord's command is for you to fear him above all else. The same sovereign, omnipotent God who keeps your heart beating and the planets orbiting is more than able to handle the results of your obedience. When he tells you to do something and you know without a doubt it is his will, then you need to obey based solely on who is doing the talking.

When you choose to obey the Lord, he will bless you. This is because obedience always leads to blessing. I have always told people who say they do not understand why God is asking them to do a certain thing that if they obey him, he will reward them with a sense of peace and joy that compares to nothing this world has to offer. Therefore, set a goal to obey the Lord and watch him work in your life.



Suggested donation list for **February 2023**. We appreciate any and all donations! If you have questions or would like to tour the Food Pantry, please call 712-246-2093.

- ✓ Non-sugared cereal
- ✓ Mandarin oranges and pineapple
- ✓ Jelly
- ✓ Dry powdered milk
- ✓ Tuna and Chicken Helpers
- ✓ Chili and Chunky style soup
- ✓ Cake and brownie mixes
- ✓ Taco shells and taco seasoning
- ✓ Kleenex
- ✓ Shampoo and conditioner

20th Annual Clarinda Lutheran School
German Dinner
Sunday, February 5, 2023
Starting at 11 a.m.

Menu

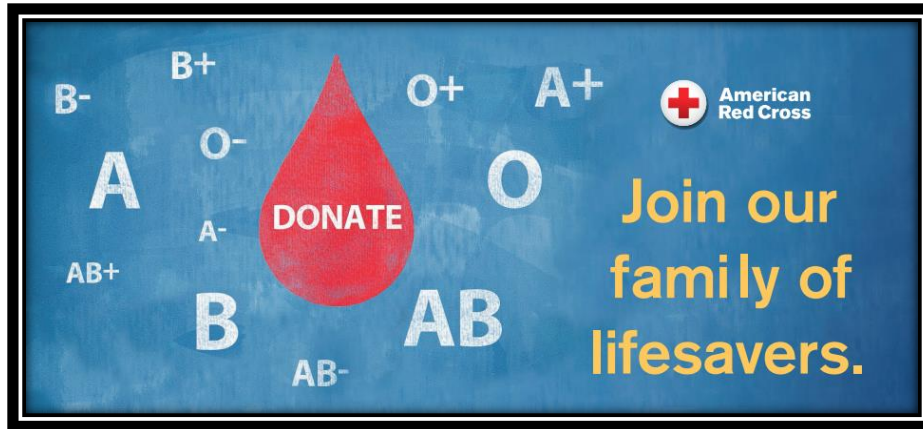
Marinated Pork Loins
 Bratwurst
 Bavarian Sauerkraut
 Hot German Potato Salad
 Green Beans with Bacon
 Escalloped Apples
 Homemade German Breads
 German Chocolate Cake
 Peach Kuchen Lemon Streusel
 Black Forest Cake Banana Rum Cake

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.**

Call (712) 542-3657 for reservations



Blood Donor Ambassador Volunteers Needed!

Blood Drive Volunteers Save Lives! Did you know someone in the US needs blood every two seconds? To meet this critical need, the American Red Cross is looking for friendly, enthusiastic individuals to volunteer at blood drives in your community.

Blood Donor Ambassadors help provide excellent and professional customer service in a medical setting to enhance the donor experience by greeting and assisting donors with the initial intake and donation process. Choose your location and one or two 4-6 hour shifts per month. Free training! Must be 13 or older. APPLY TODAY! Scan the QR code or go to www.redcross.org/volunteer. For more information email us at NEIAVolunteer@redcross.org.

Youth Volunteers at Blood Drives:

- Individuals ages 13-15 require additional adult supervision to volunteer at a blood drive. Additional adult supervision can be provided by a parent, guardian, sibling, teacher, youth club coordinator, or other adult.
- Individuals ages 16-17 years of age may volunteer at a blood drive without additional adult supervision. Most blood collection happens during the day, Monday through Friday.

APPLY TODAY! Scan the QR code or go to www.redcross.org/volunteer. For more information email us at NEIAVolunteer@redcross.org





Share My Smile (Pottawattamie County) is looking for a County Ambassador Volunteer. The County Ambassadors will be a resource and liaison between foster/adoptive families in the county they serve. They will do this by connecting and referring foster/adoptive families to the enrollment form and inviting all foster/adoptive families in their area to events and to participate in programs. CA's have creative autonomy with ways to connect and engage new families. They may do this at TIPSMAPP classes, foster parent training classes, or by email introducing themselves. CA's will also work in partnership with the Executive Director to increase Share My Smile brand awareness. They may wish to attend local support groups, churches, or other activities that allow the CA to meet and connect with potential sponsors and donors. More information is available on the counter of the Welcome Center.

How Does God Speak to Us?

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*
– Psalm 32:8



There is no language he will not speak. Which leads us to a delightful question. What language is he speaking to you? I'm not referring to an idiom or dialect but to the day-to-day drama of your life. God does speak, you know. He speaks to us in whatever language we will understand.

There are times he speaks the "language of abundance." Is your tummy full? Are your bills paid? Got a little jingle in your pocket? Don't be so proud of what you have that you miss what you need to hear. Could it be you have much so you can give much? "God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Is God talking in the "language of abundance"? Or are you hearing the "vernacular of want"? We'd rather he spoke the language of abundance, but he doesn't always.

Are you hearing the "language of need"? Or how about the "language of affliction"? Talk about an idiom we avoid. But you and I both know how God speaks in hospital hallways and sickbeds. We know what David meant with the words, "He *makes* me lie down" (Psalm 23:2, emphasis added). Nothing seems to turn our ears toward heaven like a frail body.

God speaks all languages—including yours. Has he not said, "I will instruct you . . . in the way you should go" (Psalm 32:8)? Are we not urged to "accept instruction from his mouth" (Job 22:22)? What language is God speaking to you?

And aren't you glad he is speaking? Aren't you grateful that he cares enough to talk? Isn't it good to know that "the Lord confides in those who fear him" (Psalm 25:14)?

Question: What language is God using to speak to you? What specific steps can you take in response?

By Max Lucado from the *NIV Lucado Encouraging Word Bible*. HarperCollins Christian Publishing. All Rights Reserved
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Methodist Minute

At Oxford, John Wesley's brother, Charles, began what came to be known as the Holy Club, amongst other derogatory names given to them; names such as Biblemoths and Methodists. John took leadership of this club and set strict standards for personal holiness, learning, and how they might live together in a community spurring one another to greater purity. John set about a regiment of spiritual reading, weekly communion, weekly fasting, and daily examination of their souls.

As a group, they visited and preached in the nearby jail, and they visited and raised money for those who were sick.

There is a tension that begins to develop with Wesley, and it is a tension that is evident in the DNA of being a Methodist. The tension is between personal holiness and social holiness.

John Wesley was laser focused on developing his own holiness in pursuit of being "perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." But he also began to develop a passion for the pastoral work of visiting and ministering to those that society had abandoned.

Grace and peace,

Pastor David B. Clark
308-258-7749



1. Beginning Monday, Feb. 6, Pastor David will be on retreat at New Melleray Abbey (near Dubuque) for rest and renewal and will return Saturday, February 11th.
2. There will be no Wednesday study next week, February 8th.
3. The church office will be open Monday-Wednesday next week, February 6th – 8th. Jeff will have surgery on Thursday and will be back in the office on Monday, February 13th.