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*"Our mission is to  
proclaim the Word  
of God, leading  
people to a saving  
faith and a growing  
relationship with  
Jesus Christ."*



## Salty Salt

*"You are the salt of the earth,"* Jesus said to His gathered followers. This phrase has gained enough popularity to be well-known outside of Church, and to be applied to people with no religious connotation at all. The internet translates the phrase to mean a decent or noteworthy person. It is also the title to books, movies, and a Rolling Stones song. Dictionary.Com defines it as "an individual or group considered as representative of the best or noblest elements of society." It seems to me I've heard it used to describe wholesome, down-to-earth kind of people.

I don't think any of these definitions catch the meaning Jesus intended. I suppose it's just possible that Jesus looked out at the crowd – this is part of the Sermon on the Mount – and thought, "My, these are good, decent, noble-hearted people." Maybe He just said this to commend them for being such fine, upstanding folks. But I don't think so. Because He goes on to warn them to do well. They have potential, but potential can be wasted.

The normal understanding of the 'salt of the earth' is good people. People who do good, who are liked and respected. People who contribute. Every word of that is right, I think, as far as it goes. But if all they do is be good, if all they do is make things better, then they are doing nothing more than being good for goodness' sake; if it's not too far after Christmas to use that phrase. Salt being good for goodness' sake is good enough if we're talking about seasoning meat, but Jesus clearly had more



than meat in mind.

The Sermon on the Mount opens with these words: *"When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them."* A question we need to answer is who is the 'them' He taught? The crowd, or the disciples? Normal rules of grammar would say it refers to the most recent subject. So He taught the disciples, with the crowd present. If this is the case, the disciples are the salt, and the crowds are what is to be salted.

To be clear, the salt is good deeds, but they are good deeds done in Jesus' name. As He says a little later, when speaking of light, *"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* Being salty is doing good works to glorify God. Our 'saltiness' is to point people to Him.

Normally, salt doesn't need a pep talk. I haven't yet witnessed a cook explaining to his seasoning what it is to do. "Ok Salt, you are the salt of this meal. I need you to be good and salty. If you lose your saltiness, there's no getting it back." Salt doesn't need a pep talk. But we are salt with a will. And the unfortunate baggage that comes with a will is a won't. Salt with a will must be reminded to be salty.

So if we are Jesus' disciples, and we want to do His will, how do we go about being salt? Salty salt? There are probably several answers to that question, but three come to mind quickly: Salt must be in close proximity with what is salted, salt is absorbed in what is salted, and salt is not an individual effort.

## Photo of the Month



Wally sings his way to true love—found in Gertie, standing behind him, helped by the candy cane singers. It was all part of 'Christmas at Uncle Phil's Diner.' Hope you were able to catch the fun.

The proximity issue says that if we will be salt, we will make a difference where we are. This does not mean we can't make impact from a distance, too. Jesus followed this salt metaphor with a light metaphor. Light shines in the distance. But this is the salt metaphor. Salt doesn't make an impact at distance. It must be up close and personal.

Salt must be on the meat, or the veggies, or whatever. It only flavors what it comes into contact with. Or, for those of us who remember using rock salt as ice melt, it only melts the ice it comes into contact with. If we are the salt and this world is the meat, we must make contact with the world if we want to make it better. If all we do is occasionally congregate in a salt shaker and sing about our saltiness we are no good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Salt is absorbed in what is salted. Sometimes, if I've been sweating a lot and feel a cramp coming on, I might throw some plain salt down my throat. As a rule, though, we don't especially enjoy plain salt. Something that is properly salted tastes good, but not salty. Or at least not too salty. Once, when making my chili, I oversalted it. At Joan's advice, I threw a potato in the pot. The potato absorbed the excess salt, and not only did the chili taste good, the potato did, too!

We need to be involved in the world. Christianity

does not get to be a 'good people' club where we complain about the world but don't do anything to make it better. And we don't make it better merely by voting or supporting missions or praying. Those are good; but they are distance things. Salt is up close. So we do things to make a difference. We become part of the world we're trying to improve; and know we won't make it better until we do. So we sit on the school board, or volunteer at the food bank, or shovel someone's sidewalk, or go to jail (in a positive way). We go into the world, so we can make a difference in the world.

Salt is not an individual effort. One grain of salt will not make a better burger. Several grains of salt will. We are only responsible for ourselves, but God didn't place us here to be alone or to function alone. We will make the most difference when we work as a group, in fellowship with other believers.

Observation: you don't get to choose whether you will be salt. Jesus said, "*You are the salt of the world.*" But you get to choose whether to get out of the shaker. You get to choose whether you will be salty. Make a difference in this world. Be salty salt.



### It's Not a Secret, Sister!

Ladies, you now know who was your Secret Sister Past; But you don't have a Secret Sister Present, so it's time to get your Secret Sister Future!

In your box at church you received a form to sign up for this year's fun. Fill it out and return it to Joan McLachlan by January 8th to participate. If you have difficulties or questions, call Joan at 725-1832, or email her at [tchrjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:tchrjoan@hotmail.com).

### Missions Minute

Several years ago we added a Country of the Week to our prayer time during the worship service. It has been informative and well-received, but we feel it is time to try something new.

Beginning with the new year, we have replaced it with a Missions Minute each week presented by members of the Missions Committee. The focus will be on our own missionaries, the persecuted church, or other timely subjects as they come up.

### Sanctify of Human Life Sunday

Once a year we join with thousands of other churches around the country to remind ourselves how precious human life is. Man is made in God's image, and we dare not take that lightly.

This will be our focus as we worship together on January 22nd.



## Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

*"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he"* (Proverbs 23:7 KJV).

I am a heart patient – and a cancer patient. But that is not what ought to define me.

As I've been recovering from both of my health issues over the past four months, I've had a few bouts with anxiety that may have produced symptoms that prompted me to seek medical attention. At the last, my doctors have concluded that my body is in good shape, but my mind is "over-thinking" things!

*"As a man thinks in his heart (mind), so is he!"*

So, I'm working on my mind. Instead of considering myself primarily a "patient," I'm thinking of myself as a guy who happens to have a couple of health issues that I need to keep track of and continue to make the lifestyle adjustments to keep them in check, as best as I can.

It's also true that I am "a sinner, saved by grace." But as I read the New Testament letters, I've become convinced that this designation isn't the defining one. Just as my body carries the remnants of disease, so my soul has a struggle with sin. But Christ has dealt with that sin and will eventually remove all of its traces from my life, just as all traces of physical disease will disappear entirely in our resurrection bodies!

For the Christian, "sinner" is no longer the defining term. Rather, we are "saints." We are "in Christ." We are "God's children" and His "servants" and "ambassadors."

It might seem to be simple semantics, but "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." How and what I think about myself is cru-

cial. If I regard myself as primarily a "sinner," then I'm prone to sin. But if I think of myself as primarily a "saint" and "God's child," I will (supernaturally, by the power of the Holy Spirit) conform my will to His and begin to act the part.

In the early weeks of my recovery, I saw myself as a medical patient – and my thoughts and emotions followed suit. The medical community emphasized paying attention to how I felt and to seek attention if symptoms matched issues of the heart. I found myself anxious and, at times, worried, but when I saw the doctors, it was my mind, not my physical heart, that was at fault. As my mind began to realize I was doing fine, the constant focus on my body began to fade.

*"As a man thinks in his heart (mind), so is he!"*

When I was a boy, my dad used to tell me that "you're a Smith ... and Smiths don't do what you just did." Knowing that, within the family structure, being a "Smith" was what defined me, I gave attention to "being a Smith." I wasn't always successful (that's an understatement!), but I was seeing myself as my dad saw me.

As God's child, my heavenly Father sees me in a certain way, too. He wants the dynamic of "like Father, like son" to occur in my Christian life. He proclaims that I am a "new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). I'm no longer defined as a "sinner," but as a "saint" (someone set apart unto the Lord) who occasionally struggles with what's left of sin in my life.

With that defined, I'm free to live for Him as one of His own! Because, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he!"

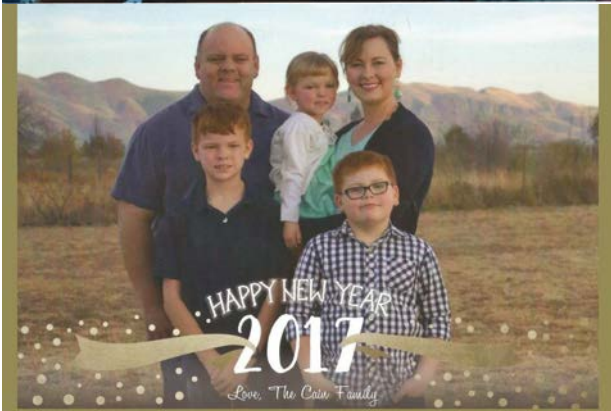




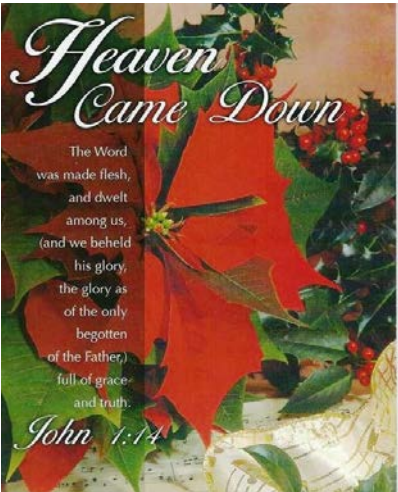
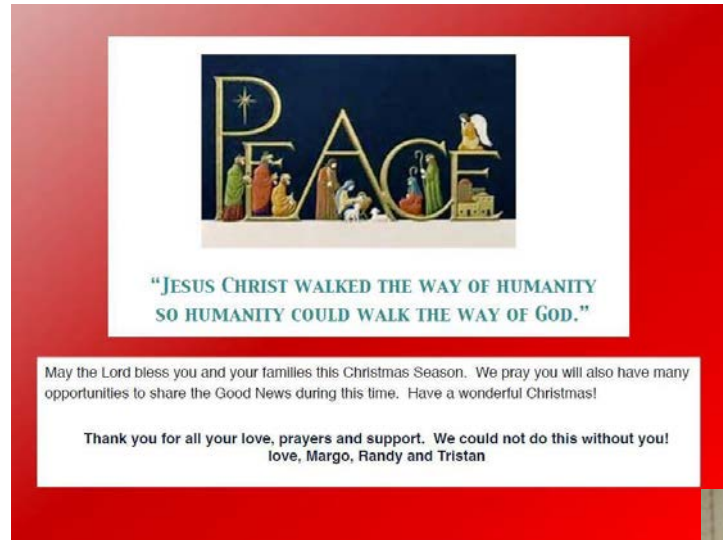
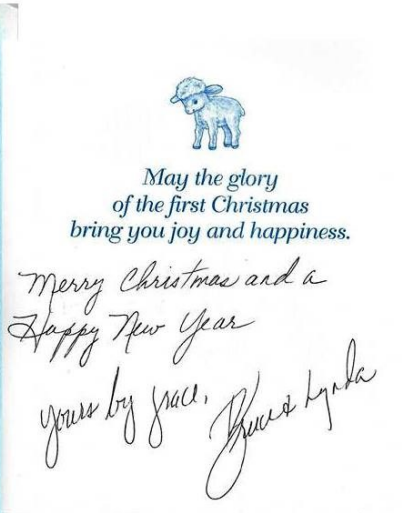
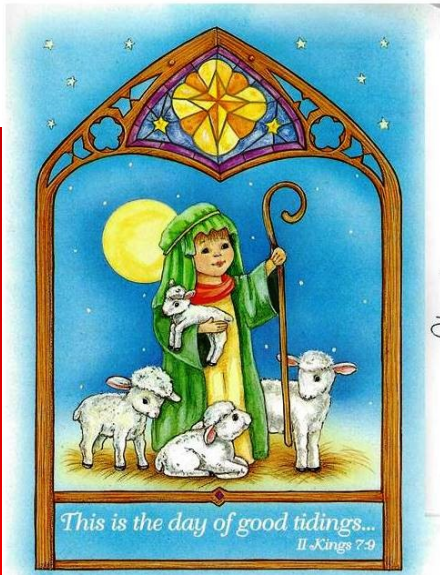
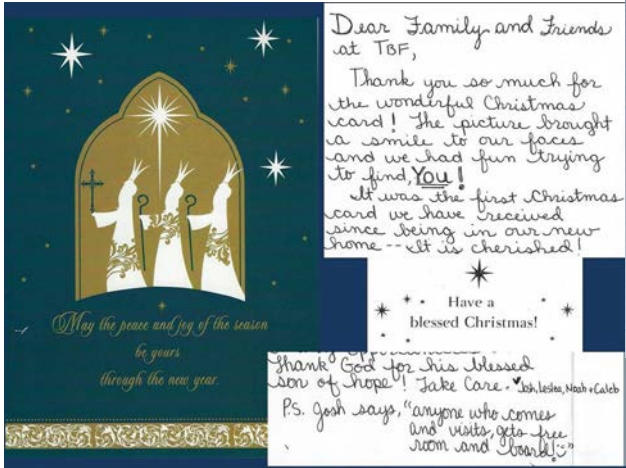
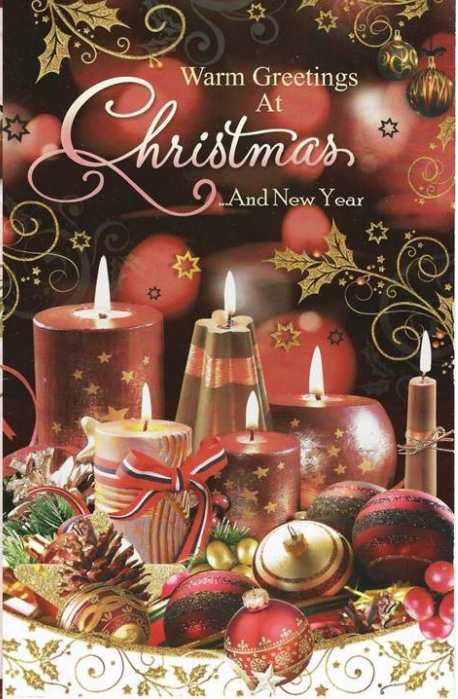
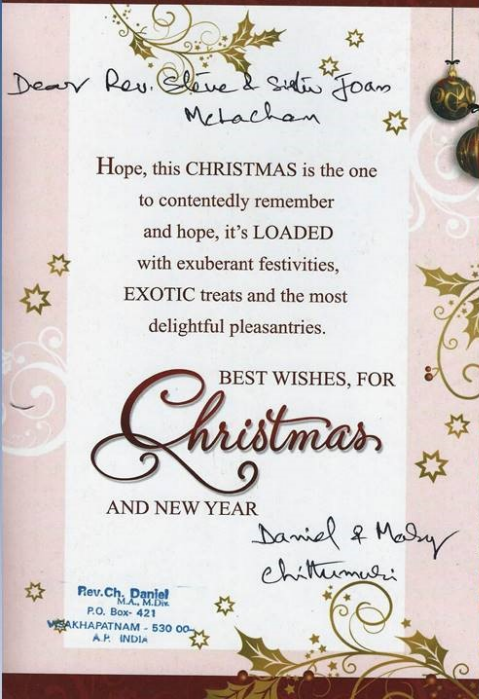
Merry Christmas from  
Randy and Laura Damichen



Dear friends and family  
at Trinity Bible,  
Wishing you and your family  
all the joy of heaven as you celebrate  
the true meaning of Christmas.  
Have a wonderful  
Christmas Season!  
Love, Randy and Lynne  
Anderson



Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad



Merry Christmas from our house to yours,  
The Board, Staff and Volunteers of  
Life Services



Elders Report

December 6, 2016  
by Jeremy Eaton

Present: Mike Anderson, Steve McLachlan, Dion Ricketts, Jeremy Eaton

Intercessory Prayer

Minutes were reviewed & approved

Pastor’s Report

- Discussion about replacing Operation World during prayer time with “Mission Minute,” potentially led by a member of the Missions Committee.
- TBF collected \$215 to send as a gift toward Linda Nelson’s retirement gift from Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp.
- We are planning a Membership class in January.
- Robert McDowall will preach on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a ladies’ Ornament Party on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.
- TBF is still being considered for a Regional Distribution Center for Operation Christmas Child. This is dependent on someone volunteering for the position.
- Newly elected board members will be commissioned Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Day service was discussed. Pastor Steve and Jeremy Eaton will plan on leading the service.

Youth Ministries

- The youth group checking account needs to have a new check signer on the signature card. The decision was made to make Lexine Eaton in charge of that account with Steve McLachlan as a second account signer.
- Discussion was held about whether we need a youth pastor.
- The Youth Leadership program was discussed and will be promoted to our youth.
- Lock In is planned for December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer’s Report: No report given.

Old Business

- Communion schedule for the year was set.
- Meet and Greet was discussed. It was decided that we will try to limit it to one minute, and that the worship team should be ready sooner.
- It was decided that the Trustees will be in charge of the new Building Committee.

Next meeting: January 3.

Church Funds  
11/30/16

Benevolence Fund	2,139.87
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Missions Fund	1,168.30
Asia Trip	4,777.92
General Fund	27,910.38
Total	\$38,096.47
Building Fund	\$234,131.11
Overall Total	\$272,227.58

Uncle Phil Reports

“Christmas charity, that’s what’s missing!” Uncle Phil complained in the play. But apparently he was whining for nothing. Patrons of the diner forked over 125 pounds of canned food and \$217.27 in tips. All proceeds go to support Care & Share.

Snow Closure Policy

As always, our snow closure policy this year is, “No Closure, No Guilt.” If you can make it, we who are there will worship together. If you can’t, don’t worry about it. Spend some time in God’s Word and in prayer at home.



New Members Class

Who are we, what do we believe, and why are we here? Those are the things we think you need to understand to be a member at Trinity Bible Fellowship, and they are the questions answered in our membership class. Attending does not obligate you to anything, but it enables you to be an informed member, with the ability to vote and hold church office.

The course takes five to six classes. We will meet in Pastor Steve & Joan’s living room, beginning Sunday, January 8th, at 6 pm. Feel free to call with questions. Let us know if you want to participate.



by Mike Anderson

Youth Stuff

LOCKED-IN!!!

Imagine if you will...a cold dark night, howling wind; down a distant hallway comes the echo of maniacal laughter, followed by a loud thump as a body hits the floor. A scream, shrill and piercing rips through the air, more laughter on its heels, this time from many voices, all of them drawing closer. In the midst of this chaos a man stands before a mirror, his eyes wide with fear. The hands clenched at his side are white knuckled and trembling. He knows there is no escape...he’s locked-in!

I take a deep breath and tell myself, “You can do this...they’re just teenagers and it’s only one night. What can happen?” And fear grips my heart again! Unbidden, a verse my granddaughters like to sing comes into my head, ‘Do not fear for I am with you...’ I know God’s word is true so I open the door and step into the light!

December’s TBF Youth Group Big Event was an overnight ‘Lock-in’ at the church. And far from being the night of terror someone was worried it might be, it was an evening filled with joy, fun and fellowship that honestly just flew by and was over before I knew it. In case you’re wondering, it wasn’t the YG Leader’s idea to have a Lock-in; the youth wanted it and they were very excited, even insistent about having it. Now I under-

stand why. Our lives, both adults and young people are soooo busy that it is rare for us to get to spend even an hour together with each other in Christian fellowship. The Lock-in gave us seven hours dedicated to this much neglected area of our Christian walk. There were games galore, lessons learned, pizza and a plethora of other munchies. Some of us even got a little rest (God said that’s good).

Looking back on it, I think the real reason the youth were so adamant about the lock-in was simply because they wanted more...more of the blessed fellowship God wants for all of us. “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25. That’s something worth locking-in!

January’s TBF YG Big Event will be ‘Bad Bowling’ (postponed from November). There will be special prizes for the “Baddest” Bowlers (both kinds!), as well as a number of special “skills” challenges. If you’d like more details you can contact any of the YG Leaders (Jeremy and Lexine Eaton, LeVance Reed, Levi Ricketts or Mike Anderson).



## What the Grown-Ups are doing

The Adults Class, led by Pastor Steve, has been meeting in the Sanctuary and going through what was billed as a quick New Testament Survey, designed to be a quick scan of the New Testament, usually covering each book in one class. Didn't turn out that way, as we keep finding too much good stuff to discuss.

But we are making progress! We begin the new year by reaching the Prison Epistles—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Why are they called the Prison Epistles? Why is Philemon also called a Pastoral Epistle? Does it matter if they're grouped together? And last but not least, does it really make any difference?

Well, those are the kind of questions we start with, but where we end, while usually related to the subject we began with, is anybody's guess. What we seem to verify each week is that the Bible never ceases to have practical application to daily life.

When you come to class, bring a couple of dollars to drop in our missions jar. People often think of missionary offer-

# TeachersCorner

ings in Sunday School as a kids' thing, but I guess we're just not that grown up. Our class missionaries are Bruce and Lynda Morock. We pray for them, along with other prayer requests, each week, and at the end our class year we send them however much money we've collected. Each year (starting in September) we have a new class missionary.

Something new—we're going to try moving the class into the new addition. The room is big enough, has a t.v. for power point or other audio-visual tools, and does not get passed through by people on their way to other things.

This will also free the Sanctuary for other uses during that time before church on Sundays.

Anything else you want to know? Guess you'll have to visit the class and find out for yourself.



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EDWARD WAS SO FOND OF HIS NEW SNOWMAN  
THAT HE COULDN'T HELP BUT MAKE HIM A  
GUARDIAN SNOW ANGEL

Prefer to get your Newsletter by email? We can do that! Contact the church office at [tbfdavenport@hotmail.com](mailto:tbfdavenport@hotmail.com)

## Awana

Special Nights in January:

Jan 4	Middle of Summer Night
Jan 11	Half-Way There Night
Jan 18	Clown Night
Jan 25	Teeny-Tiny Night

Half-Way there night? That's right! It seems way too early in the year, but on January 11 we are half-way done. This is a great time to start catching up if you're behind. We want to see everyone complete their books this year!

Penny Parade Report: The kids and leaders did a great job bringing in money for a Christmas gift for Awana Missionaries Jim and Bev Van Mersbergen. The actual amount was a little less, but a generous volunteer gave the difference, so that we sent them a check for an even \$200! Good Job!

The Grand Prix is coming! Race Night is set for February 22. T&T, Trek, Journey, and Leaders—It's not too early to start planning and building cars! Look for more info as the day approaches.


Missionaries of the Month:  
Brad & Shilo Cain  
Serving in Mexico with



# January 2017

Women's Ministry Leader: Joan Wintersteen  
Group Members: Becky Oehlwein  
Tiffany Abell  
Lori Rieth  
Brenda Victor  
Kristi Bell



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Coffee Fellowship 	2  Emily Abell Tiffany Choate	3 Elders Meeting, 6 pm	4 Awana 6 pm Summer Night	5 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	6	7  Will Copeland
8 New Members Class 6 pm	9 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Mission Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	10 Quarterly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm	11 Awana 6 pm Half-way Night	12 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	13  Sandy Buchanan Randy Damschen	14 <b>Winter Camp @ CLBC January 14- 16</b>
15 New Members Class 6 pm  <b>Winter Camp @ CLBC January 14- 16</b>  Joan McLachlan	16 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  <b>Winter Camp @ CLBC January 14- 16</b>  Knute Hernas	17  Micah Choate	18 Awana 6 pm Clown Night  Millie Guhlke	19 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	20  Katelyn Bell Donna Erickson	21
22 New Members Class 6 pm  Right to Life Sunday  Eli Downing	23 Men's Coffee 8:30 am	24	25 Awana 6 pm Teeny Tiny Night  John Erickson	26 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm  Dion & Annie Ricketts	27  Seyler Lacy	28
29 Communion/Benevolence Offering New Members Class 6 pm	30 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  Murray Eaton Kim Tarbert Dave & Deanna Fitzpatrick	31				