

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

February, 2019

## Enlighten the Eyes of My Heart

Open the Eyes of My Understanding and  
Enlighten Me with Your Knowledge!

Since I was a small child, I have always believed in God. I would go to church with my father and brothers on most Sundays while I was growing up. That was essentially the extent of my relationship with God. I knew about Jesus, but I really did not know or understand about having a personal relationship with Him.

Many of you know that Glenda and I were married at Sunny Place. Looking back on those early years now, I can honestly say I was not a Christian at that time. The short version of the beginning of my Christian walk began in my late twenties. I had achieved many of the things the world says will bring you happiness. I was happily married, and we had a wonderful daughter. We both had good paying jobs, we owned our own home, two cars in the driveway, and we had financial stability for a young couple in their twenties. I had everything you could want, yet I was still unhappy. It's hard to explain the hopelessness of the unhappiness that I was feeling. I was looking at my life and all I could see in the years that laid ahead was a continual cycle of making money and buying stuff. This was very unfulfilling to me. I kept asking myself, is this what life is all about. I was living in darkness.

My first thought was, I'm in my twenties and I should be happy, there must be something medically wrong. I made an appointment with my doctor and had a complete physical. My doctor couldn't find anything wrong. He asked if there was something in my life causing me stress. This

feeling of unhappiness was not stress related. The unhappiness was from the despair from recognizing that the things of this world were not fulfilling and only brought temporary joy. After months and months of feeling this deep unhappiness, God put it on my heart and mind that this was a spiritual matter. I began searching and seeking out Jesus to be the center of my life. It didn't happen overnight for me. But with much help from the Holy Spirit and faithful servants of God who He sent to support and disciple me, I said the prayer of salvation and finally turned my life over to Jesus. I know now that God was working within me to enlighten my heart and mind, so I would know and live a life according to His purpose.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*  
1 John 1:9 NIV

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*  
Matthew 6:19-21 NIV

I never read the Bible much growing up. Once I was saved, like it is for many new Christians, many things in the Bible seemed somewhat confusing. I knew that it wasn't God's will for me to be confused when I read His Word, but I didn't know how to overcome it.

In Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1, We learn to ask

ENLIGHTENMENT

(Continued on next page)

God to remove the filters from our eyes so that we can interpret Scripture through His Spirit of wisdom and understanding. If we ask Him to open the eyes of our understanding so we could be enlightened in our knowledge of Him, we will know the hope of His calling and the riches of our inheritance in Him.

*"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."*

Ephesians 1:17-19 NIV

I am sharing this because many people struggle with the same issue. They say they don't hear the voice of God speaking to them and when they try to read the Bible and they become confused. If this is you or someone you know, it is my prayer that your mind may be enlightened in the revelation and knowledge of God. One of the enemy's biggest tactics is to bring confusion to the mind of the believer, because he knows that if we are confused; we will become frustrated and give up trying to read the Bible. There are a lot of Christians who do not read the Bible because of this reality.

It is important to understand that living this way causes people to be lukewarm and ineffective for the Kingdom work they are called to do. Jesus wants to sit with us and feed us His wisdom and understanding. He wants to impart His words to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, so we have revelation and knowledge of God. It is in yielding ourselves to Him and in submitting our minds where He is able to enlighten our eyes, our minds, and our souls so that we can be healed and begin to see as He sees. This is where we will become empowered in a new way when we read Scriptures and pray because we

will no longer be filtering things with our natural mind based on our past experience or upbringing.

God, in His incredible love for us, is longing to speak to us and to give us wisdom and understanding. When we rely on the Lord and trust in Him, He will never forsake us. Commit your way to the Lord and trust in him and you will receive His inheritance and live in the light of the His hope and immeasurable power.

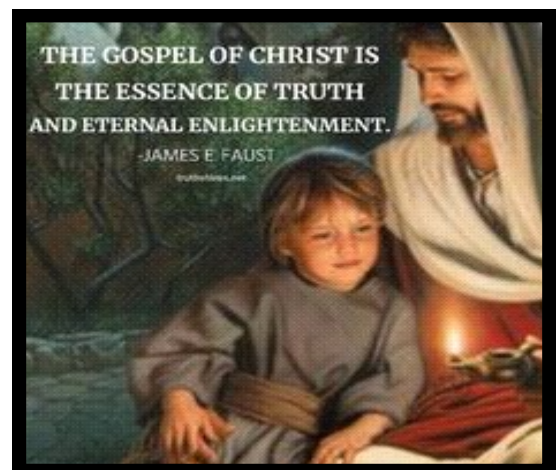
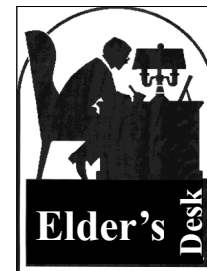
What is your relationship like with God? Do you feel spiritually full? Are you willing to set aside the time to be with Him? God's Word is perfectly clear. If you follow God and trust in Him, He will guide you.

*In his heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.* Proverbs 16:9 NIV

God will infuse us with the hope of our calling and He will enrich us with our glorious inheritance in Him. I pray that you will not lean solely on your own understanding, and you will seek Him first above all other things, then all things will be added unto you.

In Christ Service,

Tim Kasza



**Connect**

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# TLC

Together Loving Christ

Are you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

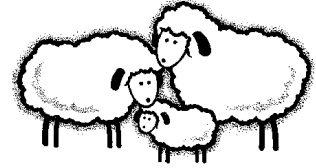
Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

***Grow in the Word!***

## Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

*Kid's Rock* available  
for children ages five to nine

*Nursery Services Provided*



**2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon**  
**Saturday, February 9th, 11:30 am**  
**Sunny Place Church**

**Come be our guest for food,  
great speakers and activities.**

**Free event for Seniors 55 & up.**  
**Register now at 630/398-2314.**

Visit us at: [www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***

# Elders Meeting held January 9, 2019

Attended by Pastor Pete Weber, Phyllis Clark, Tim Kasza, Nona Koivula, Glenda Kasza

**Prayer and Devotion** Lamentations 3:19-26 "I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself "The LORD is my portion therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

## Ministry Reports

**Treasurer:** Budgeted Bank Balance \$ 1,252.84 Giving for Dec. \$21,413.84 Expenses for December, \$16,168.62. Our church donated \$2,150 to CWC for the Christ Birthday Offering.

**Worship & Prayer:** There was a meeting Jan. 6. The Mission and Vision statements were revised and placed on the church website. Effie prepared and shared spiritual guidelines because worship isn't simply an event or place. Lifestyle Worship means we are called to offer our lives as living sacrifices. The team reviewed the shared responsibilities and ownership of the ministry. Commitment cards were given to each team member to embrace and keep close to his or her hearts. As Director and facilitator, Effie is planning the worship services in advance and asked team members to provide the Sundays that they are willing to serve.

**Christian Education & Fellowship:** Pastor Pete reported that he will begin the next Discipleship Adult class on Sunday, Jan. 13.

**Pastoral Care & Encouragement:** The ministry is sending cards and flowers to our brothers and sisters who are in need of encouragement. Pastoral Care continues as needed.

**Outreach & Missions:** The Senior Luncheon will be this Saturday and the ministry meeting will follow our worship service on Jan. 13. The Missions team is looking into a program called Laundry Love which our church may begin in the near future.

**Stewardship & Support Services:** The LED lighting upgrade in our church is complete and Com. Edison will pay 53% of the expense. Our expense is about \$500 less than expected. The blower on one of the church's furnaces ceased working. It was a blessing to have the blower replaced quickly and with labor donated for a greatly reduced expense.

## New and Old Business

- The Elders carefully reviewed the 2018 expenses and 2019 budget prepared by Glenda Kasza as treasurer. Phyllis Clark moved to accept the proposed budget. Nona Koivula seconded the motion. The 2019 budget will be presented to the congregation during the Annual Business Meeting to be held Sunday January 27, 2019.

Next Elders meeting will be February 6.

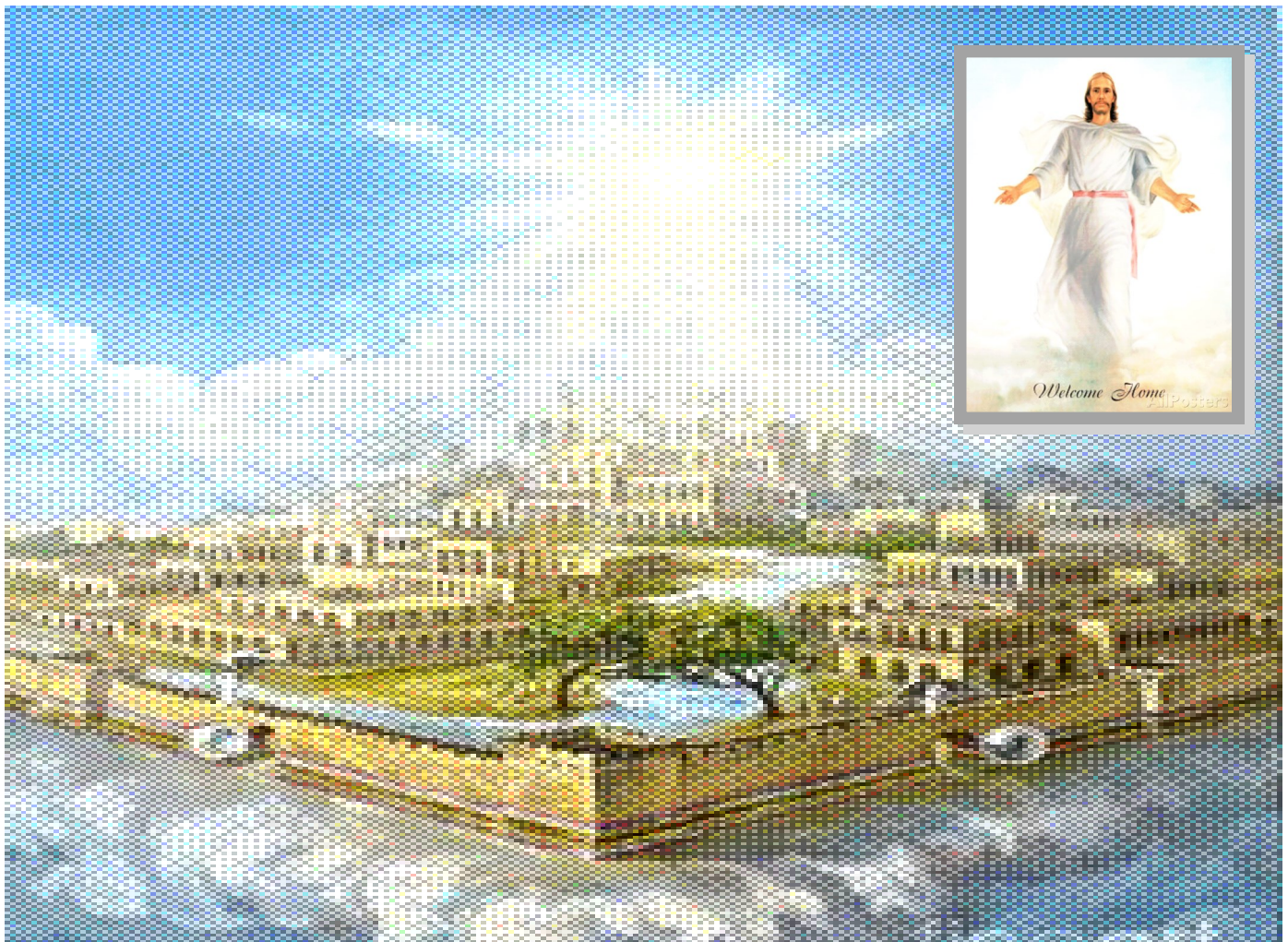


Kid's

# Connection

## Spiritual Enlightenment

It's illumination, comprehension, realization, insight, knowledge, of what our Lord has for us, His Believers!



"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us to believe." *Ephesians 1:18-19*

## Meet the Critsers, Sherman & Kay Native American Ministries Scottsbluff, Nebraska

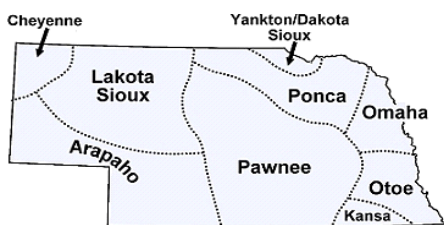
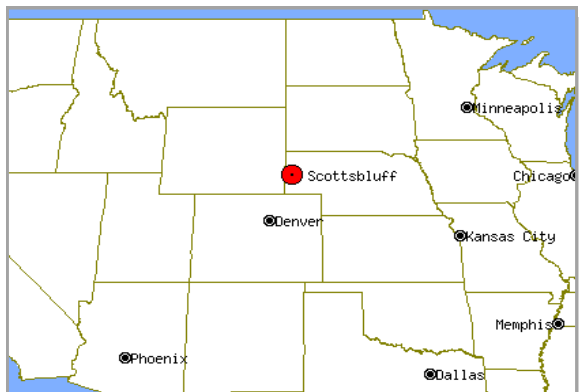


Since January 2013 Reverend Sherman and Kay Critser have been making themselves at home in Scottsbluff, Nebraska after coming back to the United States from Cote D'Ivoire in Africa.

Initially, much work was needed to repair and restore the Scottsbluff Intercultural Chapel, connecting buildings, and the parsonage. Despite the construction, services continued in and around the Chapel.

Besides pastoring at Scottsbluff Intercultural Chapel, the Critser's also provide leadership development to those serving Native Americans in Scottsbluff and Alliance, NE, in Pass Creek, Wounded Knee and Rapid City, SD, and in Klagehoh, AZ.

Rev. Sherman has been leading online leadership classes for the pastors. Prayer concerns include the need for more pastors to serve at the different sites. Pastor Sherman recommends viewing "The Children of the Plains" aired by ABC, for supporting partners to understand some of the challenges and opportunities that they face. The Church of God Ministries is currently working on their website section for Native American ministries.



*Ladies*  
**NITE**  
*Out*

**Two Chefs Restaurant**  
Bensenville, IL  
Friday, February 22nd  
6:00 p.m.

Join your sisters, together our fellowship is a precious time.  
Remember the three C's for this evening:  
Cozy Casual Comfort

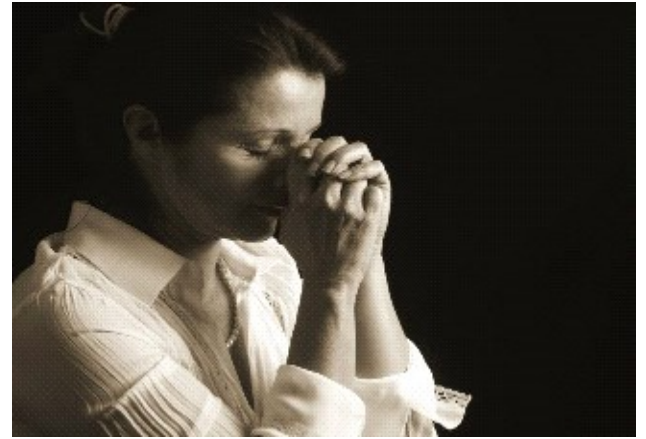
These words describe the dining at Two Chefs. The menu selection is extensive with plenty of choices for comfort food. We have reserved their private dining room, and we enjoyed dinner at this establishment last fall.

Call or text Nona at 630-220-4298 if you plan on joining us.



## Church Work Day

Saturday,  
February 23rd  
9:00 a.m.  
at Sunny Place  
Church



## Prayer can lead to Enlightenment

### Afternoon of Prayer

Light Lunch following  
Sunday, January 20th  
12:30 p.m.  
at Sunny Place Church

## Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Adult  
Bible  
Study

### “Disciplemaker’s Living Guide”

Part II of teaching on discipleship,  
Starting the 2nd  
Sunday in January

Led by  
Pastor Pete



## Thursday Evenings

7:00 p.m.

at Sunny Place



### “Power to be Witnesses”

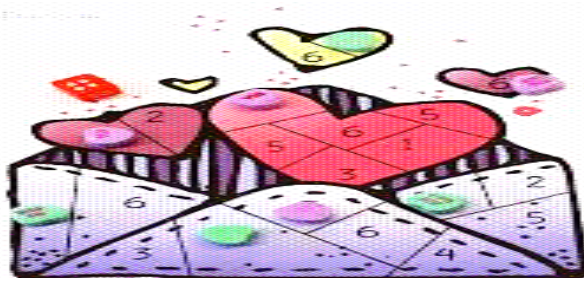
A Bible Study  
Through Luke’s letter of  
the Book of Acts

Led by Pastor Pete

## Children’s Classes

Led by Carla Weber

***Nursery services are provided***



# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4	5	6 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	7 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	8	9 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place
10 Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	11	12	13 Christian Education & Fellowship Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	14  Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	15	16
17 Afternoon of Prayer, Light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	18 	19	20	21 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place	22 Ladies Night Out at Two Chefs Restaurant, Bensenville 6:00 p.m..	23 Church Workday 9:00 a.m. at Sunny Place
24 Annual Business Meeting & Potluck Dinner starting at 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place	25	26	27	28 Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place		