

Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

April, 2019

Ready for Heaven

READINESS

When I first started thinking about “Readiness,” I had some other ideas to write about; but since I received the news about my brother Helmuth’s passing from this life to the next, to be with the Lord, my thoughts began heading in a different direction. I’m thinking, now, about how important it is for all of us to be ready to do the same.

My brother was ready for this. I don’t mean that he spent a lot of time thinking about it – I don’t believe he did. But he lived his life serving God. He lived his life helping people, serving others, caring for the elderly, and using his gifts to be a resource to anyone who had a need. Jesus said, “In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto me.” That was my brother. He served his neighbors, his family, the church – everyone he could. He served Christ. He did this his entire life. And in doing so, he was preparing, storing up treasures in heaven, making himself ready to receive his inheritance.

Jesus said:

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

When you devote yourself to God, and to serving people with the love of Jesus, here, your heart is in the right place. You are actually making spiritual deposits in heaven. It’s an investment in eternity. Earthly treasures and investments will never leave this world. But serving Christ, loving your neighbor, being peacemakers, helping the needy – these will be treasure for you beyond the grave. This, you *can* take with you. Your heart is already in heaven. And in *this* way, you are preparing – making yourself ready for that day.

Paul talked often about being ready for that day. He said:

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11

You can see he was not only considering what his devotion to Christ would entail in the remainder of his days here, but was also thinking beyond this life. And his days here were all about following in the footsteps of Christ Jesus in order to attain resurrection from the dead. There’s no question, Paul was getting ready.

For the church, he also taught that we should be thinking about another day – the day of the Lord’s return. And if he told the churches back

(Continued on next page)

then to be prepared for it, how much more should we then be ready? It's nearer now than ever. Listen to his words:

4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

Peter also tells us to be ready, living our lives, here, even as strangers – by faith, with hope in God, and in reverent fear.

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:17-21

As you can see, he wants us to be thinking about the eternal rather than the temporal, what is imperishable rather than what is perishable. He is

much more specific, as he explains later in this letter, what this should look like:

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:7-11

How you live here and now matters. It determines how ready you are for heaven. Are you ready for that? Are you ready to take your last breath? Are you ready for the day Jesus comes? ... Today could be that day.

My sister, Esther, said that on the day, hours before Helmuth passed, he leaned over to a friend that was next to him, and whispered in her ear, "I'm going to heaven." And it was *that* night that he took his last breath.

He was ready. ... How about you?

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Join me in getting ready for that welcome.

Blessings in Christ.

Pastor Pete



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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?

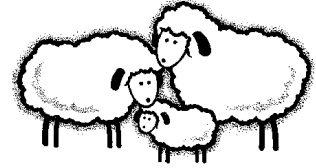
Join with us in our Adult Study Group at Sunny Place every Thursday at 7:00 p. m.

Grow in the Word!

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Kid's Rock available
for children ages five to nine

Nursery Services Provided



Come Join us at Sunny Place Church, for our annual
Easter Celebration of the Lord's Supper
on Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Peter Weber will be explaining the tradition of the Passover dinner as we enjoy the meal. There is no charge, and all are welcome to join us. Please reserve your seat by calling: 630-530-1830, and leave a message.

Visit us at: www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org



901 E. Oak Street, Addison, IL 60101

Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ

Elders Minutes of Meeting held March 6, 2019

Attended by Pastor Peter Weber, Phyllis Clark, Ted Gehman, Tim Kasza, and Glenda Kasza

Prayer and Devotion “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil, or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, ‘Whoever would love life, and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.’” *1 Peter 3:8-12*

Ministry Reports

Treasurer: Budgeted Bank Balance \$302.28 Giving for February \$9558.00 Expenses for February \$11563.66

Worship & Prayer: A team meeting was held on March 3. A lot was covered about Worship Ministry and all the tasks that need to be done; and commitment to cover these tasks was discussed.

Christian Education & Fellowship: A meeting was held on February 13. A Family Game Day is planned for March 31. Our women had a night out at Two Chefs. Mother’s and Father’s Day luncheons are being planned. Speed Sketch curriculum is being used for Kid’s Rock. Our Mission Statement was updated and submitted.

Outreach & Missions: A meeting was held on February 17. Sr. Luncheons are well attended, and are enjoyed and encouraging to our guests. First-responders received their treats and cookies – they sent a nice thank you letter. The team is working on doing some Easter promotion on-line. The Mission’s Fest theme, “Let the Earth Hear His Voice” was chosen. It will be a three day fest, May 3-5, and will include a Saturday day-trip to Pacific Garden Mission. Laundry Love ministry possibilities continue to look promising, and moving forward.

Stewardship & Support Services: Work Day on February 23 was attended by Tim, Ted, and Jacob. Carpets were cleaned; Exit sign lamps and furnace filters were replaced; parsonage screen door repaired; threshold for outside classroom door replaced to make it weather tight.

New and Old Business

- New Ministry Team Mission Statements are updated, and on our website
- Elder’s Retreat, Sat, April 6
- 360 Leadership Conference, Sat, April 13, at Life Builders Church, Decatur
- NAC & General Assembly in Orlando, June 27-30
- Global Leadership Summit, August 8-9

Next Meeting: Elder’s Retreat, Saturday, April 6, 2019, 9pm



Kid's

Connection

What do these pictures mean to you?









Meet Ernie & Lori Nicholas Missionaries to Kenya Kima International School of Theology (KIST)

Ernie serves alongside the staff as the Academic Dean. He also provides administrative and teaching support.

Lori serves alongside the staff as the school's nurse, providing healthcare for students and staff through the clinic. She also helps coordinate the missions experience groups who visit KIST.

Kima International School of Theology (KIST) began in 1995 as a joint effort across English-speaking East Africa to train leaders for work in the Church of God. It draws from many East African countries, with the majority of the 82 current students coming from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Kima International School of Theology exists to equip students to become effective and influential servant leaders, transforming and strengthening the church, community and world.

History

Christian Missionaries from South Africa began working in the Bunyore area of Western Kenya in 1905 and began education on various levels to train church leaders for ministry. In 1922 the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana assumed the mission work. In 1954 the Missionary Board of the Church of God and the leaders of the Church of God in East Africa (Kenya) began a residential training institution for the preparation of church ministers in Kenya. This training institution became known as Kima Theological College (KTC). In 1995 the Church of God in East Africa (Kenya) gave the land of Kima Theological College to a new multi-national Board of Directors to begin Kima International School of Theology (KIST), which has been in operation since that time.



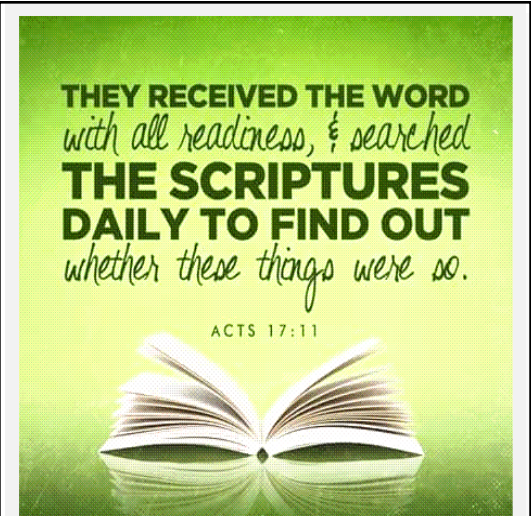
Be sure to mark your calendars:
Friday, May 3, 2019 through
Sunday, May 5, 2019

Friday night: Festival Kick-Start with our missionaries.

Saturday morning: Servant Project at Pacific Garden Mission, located in Chicago.

Sunday morning: Worship with Chris Peck, President/CEO from Hope Hill Youth Services, located in Hope Hill, Kentucky.

Followed by a celebration
International Dinner



Afternoon of Prayer
Light Lunch following
Sunday, April 28th
12:30 p.m.
at Sunny Place Church



Easter Worship Service

Friday,
April 19th
7:00 p.m. at
Sunny Place

CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday,
April 20th
9:00-1:00 p.m.
at Sunny Place



"Asia in Spring"
A Celebration of the
Women's Ministry
9th Anniversary

Saturday, April 27, 12:00 pm
Create your much loved Asian
food to share with your Sunny
Place sisters. Wear an Asian
Dress if you wish. The Sowell family
will hostess. Please let them know how
many will be attending.

Sunday School Line-Up

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

"Disciplemaker's Living Guide"

Part II of teaching on
discipleship,

Led by
Pastor Pete



Children's Classes

Led by Carla Weber

Nursery services are provided

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



April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Elder's Retreat at Cantigny 9:00 a.m. </div>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Christian Education and Fellowship Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 2nd Saturday Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. at Sunny Place </div>
 <p>Palm Sunday</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Meeting 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>				 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Lord's Supper 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Easter Worship Service 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Church Work Day 9:00 a.m. at Sunny Place </div>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>happy Easter</p> 				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>		<p style="text-align: center;">ANNIVERSARY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> "Asia in Spring" Ladies 9th Anniversary luncheon 12-3:00 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>
28	29	30				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Afternoon of Prayer, Light lunch following 12:30 p.m. at Sunny Place </div>						