



September 2024

CRC NEWSLETTER

LOVE. GROW. SERVE.

CROSSROADS
CHURCH

THE POWER OF PERSONAL INVITATION

In the classic introvert vs extrovert conversation, I fall clearly on the extrovert side of the equation. This surprises some people because I don't have a boisterous personality, but I measure it by the fact that I recharge better with friends than on my own. I prefer to be around others and work on a team than to go solo. But even as an extrovert, I rarely if ever will choose to just show up to something that has been advertised without a personal invitation. I might see a poster that my favorite band is playing in Fargo but you won't see me buying a ticket unless I have people to go with. You won't catch me in the movie theater watching the latest film by myself. I need an invitation to attend. Even the most extroverted among us benefit greatly from personal invitation.

Jesus knew the power of personal invitation. He could have easily just found some high places in public to give the most grand and powerful speeches that the world has ever heard. He could have become a political leader and used his influence to reach the masses with the good news. He could have spent every day of his life speaking to full courtyards and shorelines. But instead, Jesus approached a couple of fishermen, he walked up to a tax collector, and he had a conversation with a zealot. And He invited them to follow Him. Jesus sat down with countless people and had a meal with them. He took time for the little children to approach Him. He took the time to care for the blind and the lame and those who were discarded by most of society. Jesus added to the kingdom of God one personal invitation at a time.



THE POWER OF PERSONAL INVITATION

Our modern world doesn't think this way. We strategize about TV broadcasts, social media followings, and YouTube live streams. Our world today rewards fame, influence, and efficiency. Initially, these strategies seem more effective, they seem like the path of wisdom. I'm not saying that they have no place in the advancement of the Gospel, they have some benefit for sure. But even though Jesus didn't have Facebook I think he had plenty of opportunities to focus all of this attention on the masses, and instead, he spent most of his time with individuals, inviting them into the kingdom one by one. I believe that this is an example that we can and should learn from. There is power in personal invitation.

I want to challenge you to extend a personal invitation to someone in your life this month. Invite them over for a meal. Invite them to grab coffee with you at their favorite spot. And then start a simple spiritual conversation. Tell them why Jesus is the most important thing in your life. Tell them what He has done for you. Or invite someone to join you at your small group or at church. Invite them into an opportunity where they can learn about Jesus. No matter where a person is on their spiritual journey they can benefit from an invitation to know Jesus and learn more about Him.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "And I will send you out to fish for people." (Matthew 4:19)

Serving Christ Together,
Pastor Joey

Upcoming events

SUNDAY SCHOOL

STARTS SEPT. 8

Prek - Scott and Diane Norris
1st + 2nd - Courtney Draxten
3rd + 4th - Eric and Jessica Strand
5th + 6th - Trisha Grove

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

6:30AM THURSDAY @ Perkins
CONTACT TIM SWEDBERG
218-205-6528 tsweds@gmail.com

10:30AM THURSDAY @ CRC
CONTACT DOUG HANSEN
218-770-2493 dhansen9564@charter.net

Women's Bible Studies

9:30 AM Mondays @ CRC
Led by Courtney Draxten

9 AM Tuesdays @ CRC
Led by Nancy Hansen & Pam Larson

FAMILY PRAYER

JOIN US AS WE GATHER TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH 6:30-7:30 PM

... YOUNG ADULTS ... BOWLING

6:00pm-8:00pm

JOIN US!

Northern Aire Lanes, FF Friday, September 6, 2024

Youth Ministry

JR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL
led by LINDSAY HORGEN

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL
led by BROOKE MCCONN

MEET AT THE MC

Upcoming events

Ageless Wonders

LUNCH AT THE **ORCHARD**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
11 AM - 1 PM

RIVERS BEND ORCHARD

24766 E RIVERS BEND RD. FERGUS FALLS

MAPS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE INFORMATION BOOTH.
PLEASE RSVP TO NANCY: NANCY@CRCFF.COM

The Fall is Full for Ageless Wonders

After taking the summer off from any Ageless Wonders events, we'll be starting off the Fall with a special gathering. On Thursday, September 12th, we'll be meeting at the River's Bend Orchard, on the north side of Fergus Falls. Nate and Sarah Jensen own this orchard, and they will give us a bit of history of the place, and a tour. If the apples are ready, hopefully we can do some picking and tasting as well. We'll gather from 11:00-1:00, and lunch will be provided.

Looking ahead to October, the plan is to host our Ageless Wonders event at Park Gardens Senior Living. This way Don Shoemaker, Leroy Quernemoen, and Verona Danielson can join with us. This will be an opportunity for all of us to reminisce together, sharing special stories from the past, and even a few fun old photos. Be prepared with one of your favorites!

November's event details are still in the works, but we may possibly have a special visiting speaker. Be watching the emails for more details!

MINISTRY STAFF

Joey Kalan *Senior Pastor*
 Ben Ellison *Associate Pastor of Discipleship*
 Trisha Grove *Children's Ministry Director*
 Christi Horgen *Youth Ministry Director*
 Nancy Nelson *Care Coordinator*
 Bridgett Raph-Formo *Office Administrator*
 Lisa Ripley *Treasurer*

OVERSEER BOARD

Dave Anderson Dave Bjork
 Ben Ellison Kathryn Enderson
 Dan Heikes Joey Kalan
 Katrina Mouser Tim Swedberg
 Sue Wilken

CROSSROADS CHURCH

629 E Channing Avenue,
 Fergus Falls, MN
 218-739-3391

crcff.com

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 AM -12 PM

FINANCIAL UPDATES

MINISTRY CENTER BUILDING FUND RECAP

January 2022 to August 2024

Total Pledge (3 Yrs.) \$565,214

Pledged Gifts Received (to date)	\$503,472.17
Non-Pledged Gifts Received (to date)	\$70,270.77
Donation from Church Reserves	\$150,000.00
Total Receipts	\$723,742.94
Total Expenses (to date)	\$(715,440.31)
Returns/Refunds/Rebates	\$21,896.95
Total Project Cost (to date)	\$(693,543.36)
Balance in Building Fund	\$25,664.00

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

April 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024

Budget	\$223,917
Expenses	-\$198,202
Income	\$194,784
Expenses Exceed Income by \$3,418	

RESTRICTED FUND SUMMARY

August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024

FUND	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Camp Fund	\$235.00	\$1,117.50	\$3,576.80
Trout Lake Camp Fund	\$0	\$0	\$4,242.73
Ukraine Fund	\$975.00	\$0	\$1,637.75
Youth Mission Fund	\$45.00	\$0	\$20,858.65

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Communion Sunday 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM Family Fellowship	2	3	4 Youth Group Kickoff Night	5	6 6 PM Young Adults Bowling	7
8 Sunday School Kickoff 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM Family Fellowship 6 PM Awana Volunteer Training	9 6:30 PM Unwind 6:30 PM Family Prayer Night	10	11 5:45 PM Awana 5:45 PM Youth Group	12 11 AM Ageless Wonders at River's Bend Orchard	13	14 10 AM Baby Shower for Reese Ellison
15 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM Family Fellowship 10:30 AM Sunday School	16	17	18 5:45 PM Awana 5:45 PM Youth Group	19	20	21
22 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM Family Fellowship 10:30 AM Sunday School	23	24	25 5:45 PM Awana 5:45 PM Youth Group	26	27	28 9 AM Equipping the Saints
29 9 AM Worship Service 10 AM Family Fellowship 10:30 AM Sunday School	30	SEPTEMBER				

***The Nursery is
available each week
during the Sunday***

SEPTEMBER

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have something you would like to submit for inclusion in the newsletter, please email to **office@crccff.com** by the 22nd of the month (to be published in the following month's issue).