

Grace & Truth Bible Church

Virginia, Minnesota
September 2020

The Temperature of the Church

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Romans 15:7

A local church's response to visitors is important if the church is to be truly evangelistic and grow as it should. Someone has identified five temperatures of a local church in their receptivity of visitors: cold, cool, friendly, warm, and smothering. "There is a difference between a friendly church and a warm church. A friendly church greets everyone, a warm church accepts anyone. A friendly church calls everyone by name; a warm church takes the time to learn about everyone named. A friendly church is ready with church information; a warm church is ready to discover information about the person." (Mark Erskine). Our goal is to be a church that makes new attendees feel welcome without smothering them with excessive attention.

Consider these verses: Romans 12:13 *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.* Hebrews 13:2 *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers (ESV),* Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

If a hurting person came through our doors, what would they have to say about our church?

I went to a religious church, but no one seemed to care
I went to a large church, but no one knew I was there
I went to a friendly church, and they were nice as could be
But when I went to a godly church, they showed God's love to me

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9

September Evening Services

September 6	Communion – Brackett Paine
September 13	Pastor DeMarte
September 20	Pastor DeMarte
September 27	Potluck after morning service – no evening service

Good morning! Fall is in the air; the children are returning to school, and you may be completing projects that need to be done before winter. But we also need to take time to pray for our country, our neighbors, and fellow believers. Pray for the coming elections, pray that the Covid shutdown would end, and pray for opportunities to shine as lights in these dark times.

We have set aside the first Sunday after the evening service as a time to practice special music for our church services. Everyone is invited to participate.

Note the Bible studies we are having at GTBC:

Ladies Bible study at the church every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.

Ladies Bible study at Ellen Nygaard's every other Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. (next one on September 15)

Men's Bible study at the Twelve Step House every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Bible study at Kunnari's restaurant every Friday at 7 a.m.

It is Promotion Sunday! We are continuing with same teachers as last year. Pray that our Sunday school will grow and that the teachers will be effective in teaching the Word of God to their students.

Praise the Lord:

For the sale of the building in Aurora!

We will be installing a new sign in front of the church

We will also be ordering pew cushions

August Offerings

2B Free - \$100.00

Missions - \$5521.00

General - \$11759.00

Camp - \$20.00

Memory verses for September – Review

How do we treat our visitors? This is one of the first questions that must be asked by any congregation that is thinking seriously about evangelism. It hardly makes sense to develop strategies for inviting people to church if we don't know how to treat the people who come on their own —Harold Percy