

# Grace & Truth Bible Church

Virginia, Minnesota

September 2021

## Evangelism

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

### **Is witnessing for Christ and seeking the lost my job?**

Shouldn't that job be left to pastors, evangelists, and missionaries? No, evangelization is the responsibility of every Christian, and can be fulfilled in a variety of ways. This would include not only personal testimony to lost friends and neighbors, but also participation in evangelistic programs through the church – i.e. Sunday School, VBS, Release Time, Gospel Clubs, Bible Camp, Nursing Home Ministries, Youth Group, Special Meetings, Bible Studies, etc... We can also support missionaries and pray for the lost. There is a great need for believers to witness & there is no lack of opportunity to be a witness. Spreading the truth of the gospel to a needy world is one of the fundamental purposes for Grace & Truth Bible Church.

### **“What about my neighbor?”**

"I came to seek the lost," our Savior said. And he also commissioned us to do the same. But we face a large obstacle: fear. While people drown in the treacherous waters around us, we are tempted to stay dry and make certain no one rocks the boat. Sometimes, we place our own security, comfort, and popularity above the needs of those sinking into an eternal hell! May the Lord continue to bless our desire, sacrifices, and labors to win the lost!

*He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing,  
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves  
with him. Psalm 126:6*

**September Evening Services**

September 5	Communion – Brackett Paine
September 12	Pastor DeMarte
September 19	Pastor DeMarte
September 26	Potluck & Wedding Reception

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**Greetings!** We are beginning to see the weather changing and that fall is not far off. Jeremiah lamented the passing of summer and the state of his people with these words: *"The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"* We can identify with the prophet when we look at the state of our nation. What is the answer? People need the Lord! Instead of lamenting, let us spread the glad tidings of forgiveness, salvation, and changed lives through the gospel. This is what will transform society and heal our nation!

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

**Congratulations to Evan and Kelsey** on the birth of a son, Tucker Alan Johnson. Tucker weighed 8# 13 oz and was born August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Sunday School Teachers** – Thank you to all who taught in 2020-2021!

Nursery Class – Renee Vruno, Patty Waseleski  
Beginner Class – Rochelle Powell, Joslynne Trygstad  
Primary Class – Marianne Kunnari, Cara Van Epps  
Junior Class – Daryl Kunnari, Jack Kunnari, Ken Van Epps

**A Wedding Reception** is planned for Chad & Julia Harris and Nick & Cree Crandall on September 26 coinciding with our church potluck following the morning service. The two couples were married on August 6<sup>th</sup> at the church.

**Keep praying** for all who are fighting illness and medical issues. You can also drop them a card or give them a call to encourage them.

**August Donations**

- Missions - \$5795.00
- General - \$15,841.57
- 2B Free - \$90.00
- Building - \$10,700.00
- Camp - \$13,161.00 (total)

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

**The Commission contains three commands, not suggestions:**

1. **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”** This does not presuppose world conversion. By preaching the gospel, the disciples were to see others become learners or followers of the Savior—from every nation, tribe, people, and tongue.

2. Baptize **“them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** The responsibility rests on Christ's messengers to teach baptism and to press it as a command to be obeyed. In believer's baptism, Christians publicly identify themselves with the Triune Godhead. They acknowledge that God is their Father, that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior, and that the Holy Spirit is the One who indwells, empowers, and teaches them. **Name** in verse 19 is singular. One **name** or essence, yet three Persons—**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

3. Teach **“them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”** The Commission goes beyond evangelism; it is not enough to simply make converts and let them fend for themselves. They must be taught to *obey* the commandments of Christ as found in the NT. The essence of discipleship is becoming like the Master, and this is brought about by systematic teaching of, and submission to, the Word.

W. McDonald