



We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.

Today's Events

Elders/Deacons Meeting: After Worship

Youth Area Wide in Alva

We will be leaving at 2:45 p.m. and be back at 6:45 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Dec 17 – Young Adult Christmas Party @ the Sherill's House: 6-8 p.m.

Dec 23 – Office Closed

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 6-7 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas

Dec. 26 – Office Closed

****There will be no Wednesday night meals the month of December.****

Birthdays:

12th..... David Burford
17th..... Brigitte Elledge

Anniversaries:

1st..... Bryan & Kendra Brownell
.....Terry & Mary Sherill
29th.....Bruce & Linda Swart

Order of Worship

Welcome/Announcements/Song Leader **Jim Coker**

Pilgrim's Praise **Erik Granberg**
 *Shout Hallelujah!*
 *Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down*
 *Lord, We Come Before Thee Now*

Prayer..... **Chris Taylor**
 *Your Loving Kindness*
 *Shine On Us*
 *Come, Share the Lord*

Communion Talk..... **George Gordon**
 *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*
 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Sermon: Come to Jesus for Truth..... **Erik Granberg**
 *Nothing But the Blood*

Shepherd's Prayer **Terry Sherrill**

Nursery **Kayla Thornton**
Sound Booth/Slides..... **Dee Plummer**

Sermon Scripture: Mark 12:28

Sermon Thought:

One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus with a question, but not in a challenging way. He sought the truth about life. Listening to Jesus gives to order, meaning and purpose to life.

Sermon Questions:

1. What are the differences between a lie, an unknown and a truth?
2. In what ways does truth make life better?
3. What truths about God does our culture most need right now?

New Prayer Concerns:

Kathy Dittmeyer – undergoing chemotherapy

Connie Harper – a pantry patron; has 2 types of cancer

Seth Olson – Kayla Thornton's brother; his eye disease has come back, please pray for a quick recovery

Next Week's (12/18/22) Servants:

Song Leader

Welcome: Robb Mills

Pilgrim's Praise: Erik Granberg

Prayer: Jim Coker

Communion

Talk: Cory Moore

Shepherd's

Prayer: John Wright

Sound Booth/

Slides: Ally Coker
Amarah Granberg

Nursery: Geneva Osburn

Fill Communion: Jamie Barr

Presents for the angels on the Christmas tree in the foyer are due this Wednesday. Please put the presents under the tree.

Taste and See

The holiday season is full of all kinds of special flavors: Pumpkin Spice, Apple Cinnamon, Eggnog. The list could go on. One of my family's favorites is peppermint and chocolate chip cookies. We first tasted them about 5 years ago and they have been tradition since then. There really is no way to know if you will like a new food until tasting it. A person could look at it, read the ingredients, smell it or even ask someone else what it is like to get an idea if it is good. But the verdict has to wait until that first bite.

Psalm 34:8 applies the idea of taste to knowing God. It says, "*Taste and see that the Lord is good...*" The premise is simple, just try God out, get a small sample. Doing so will open a person up to the amazing God of all creation. He won't spoil, he's not sour or bitter. God is good.

Unfortunately, too many are willing to pass judgement without ever experiencing God. It is possible to look at God's works, read about God, even ask others about him. But all of those are just keeping him at arm's length. There is no way to truly know his goodness until one has experienced him.

Here are a few verses to consider. Matthew 11:28, "**Come** to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest," Matthew 7:7, "**Ask**, and it will be given to you," Malachi 3:10, "**Bring** the whole tithe into the storehouse...*Test me in this...and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven...*" Notice that each requires a little effort on our part to experience him. That is the "taste" portion that Psalm 34:8 refers to. God is not going to force himself upon us. Instead, he calls for us to test him, give him a try. Doing so will reveal a God who is good beyond our wildest imagination.

By the way, if you want to try the peppermint cookies, here is how. Take your traditional chocolate chip cookie recipe, reduce the sugar a bit, add 12 crushed candy canes to the mix and cook them on parchment paper...you're welcome.

Erik Granberg

Thank You

Thank you to the 53 saints who came to help with the 5th Wednesday Outreach.

The 36 backpacks will help children who are in need of love and support. To all who donated money, backpacks, fleece, time, effort...God is good, all the time.

Put March 29, 2023, on your calendars for the next opportunity to serve in this way.

Christianity in Action

To everyone who made the dinner. It was so good. I enjoyed the friends and fellowship.
Donna Roberts (a pantry patron)

To the ladies of North Garland who helped plan, decorate so beautifully, and cooked a delicious meal for all to enjoy at the Golden Girls Christmas Party: A great BIG thank you. Also, to Santa's elves who served our meal and were so attentive to us. The games and entertainment were so much fun. A good time was had by all who attended.