

SOF in Touch

AUGUST 2024

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 8/3: KERYX Prison Service; men's breakfast, 9 a.m.
- 8/8: General Council, 6-8 p.m.
- 8/10: 5K Fellowship, 8:30 a.m., theme: super hero; ladies' luncheon, 1-3 p.m.
- 8/24: 5K Fellowship, 8:30 a.m., theme: back to school
- 8/25: Communion led by Jason Deweese

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A Lesson from Pastor Lisa

Zechariah 10:8 (GW version)

"I will signal them with a whistle and gather them because I have reclaimed them. They will be as numerous as they have ever been."

The other day I was reading this verse in Zechariah, and it got me thinking about hearing God's voice (His "whistle").

In the book of Zechariah, God is calling His children back to Him. He promises restoration and hope if they turn from their own desires and follow him.

When I first met Randy and the two older children, Isabella and Joshua, I was amazed at how they were whistle-trained. We would be at a

birthday party; he would whistle; and they both would come running up to him. Randy had trained them to be able to hear a distinct whistle that was just for them. When we had David and Conor, they soon became whistle-trained, as well. Randy would whistle, and they could pick out their Dad's sound anywhere. They could hear it above the noise in the room.

When I read the above verse, it got me thinking about God's whistle and the distinct sound He has for each and every one of us. God can speak in so many different ways. Are we willing to listen to Him speak, or are we letting the "noise" of the world stop us from

hearing God's calling us to Him.

As we start the month of August, my prayer is that you will take time to know God's "whistle" and that you would know His voice and how He speaks to YOU. Take time to worship Him and love on Him.

Starting August 5th we will be doing an online YOUVERSION Bible study on hearing God's voice—hope you will join us!

Much love Mega Blessings!!



A Word from Pastor Weldon

The questions I want to ask our church body:

Are you seeing yourself more like a minister or not? I need to know, what will it take to get you seeing yourself as a minister in day-to-day functioning? Faith comes by hearing and hearing what God says you are, and the more you hear it, the more you will start believing it. The more believe it, the more you will start acting like you believe it.

Remember, faith or believing without steps of action is dead (James 2:14). The actions I believe you will start taking if you truly see yourself as a minister of God are the following:

#1. Cast out/bind powers of

darkness

#2. Speak in tongues

#3. Lay hands on the sick

#4 Share Jesus with others

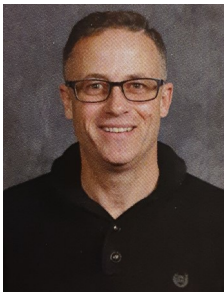
#5. Pray for others

(Mark 16:16-20).

Come on, SOF Families, you can do it! I believe in you!

Much love!





A Message from Pastor Mike

Dear SOF Brothers and Sisters,

I hear the Lord saying August is a time and season of preparation for the upcoming season. In the natural it is a time of getting ready for going back to school, preparing for fall and winter, a season of cutting wood, putting away summer clothes, and getting the sweatshirts back out.

Just as in the natural, there is the supernatural, and this is a time to prepare for the harvest of souls, for the release of miracles, and for encounters with our living God. Prepare, get ready, and watch God move!



*“Adults Discovering
Ultimate Truth”
A group for ages
18-30ish who want
to grow together in
faith and fun*

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

In our study of Proverbs, it has struck me afresh how we see glimpses of the Gospel throughout the Old Testament—it’s not just a New Testament thing. For example in Proverbs 2:1-5, we see that if we believe what God says, remember what He says, call out to Him, & seek His wisdom intentionally, we will understand the fear of the Lord & find the knowledge of God.

Several other OT Scriptures teach what the fear of God is & does: pure, endures forever, beginning of wisdom & knowledge, fountain of

life, teaches a man wisdom, leads to life, key to a treasure of salvation & wisdom & knowledge (Ps. 19:9, 111:10; Pr. 1:7, 9:10, 14:27, 15:33, 19:23, 22:4; Is. 33:6). Don’t these sound remarkably like a good definition for Jesus’ role in the life of a believer? When Proverbs 2 says we’ll understand the fear of God, it could mean we’ll know & understand Jesus.

Furthermore, John 17:3 defines eternal life as knowing the only true God & Jesus Christ Whom God sent. Therefore, we could conclude that the knowledge of God in Proverbs 2 is eternal life.

It amazes me to think that God cares enough about us to give us

the gift of His Word—His entire Word—to draw us closer to Him! Jesus was never God’s Plan B—He knew BEFORE He created Adam & Eve that humans would make a mess. Jesus was always the plan—He loves us THAT MUCH!! He wants intimacy with us THAT MUCH!! Next time you read your Bible, SEARCH for those morsels that will draw you close to the One Who loves you THAT MUCH!!

“I asked Jesus, ‘How much do You love me?’ He said, ‘This much.’ Then He stretched out His arms and died.” —unknown



Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the “norm” through Jesus’ mighty power

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Youth Truth

Isaiah 40:29-31

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even Youth grow tired and weary, and young men/women stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”

Are you feeling weary, hopeless

at times? It’s ok; we all go through times of being tired; and we start to stumble. Sometimes we fall, but by the grace of God, we get back up. We start to feel that increase of strength and power, and we begin to see the hope that is set before us.

So, I encourage you today to get up, stretch for that hope, feel that increase of POWER.

God loves you and has a purpose for you.

In 1 John 2:14b it says youth have strength, too. Listen to this: “I have written to you who are young in the faith because you are strong. God’s Word lives in your hearts, and you have won your battle with the evil one.” This verse acknowledges the strength and victory that young believers possess through the indwelling of God’s Word in your hearts.

Stay in the WORD; stay in VICTORY.

Much love, Pastor Adam

Kids' Corner

By Lexi Gilles

I like children's church because I can go to the classroom and learn about a lot of stuff like more about the Bible. We search out verses, and it's very fun. I like to color, dance, and sing.

Last year doing the Greatest Journey was very fun! VBS is extra special because we get to go into different rooms for adventures and learn more about God. VBS is my favorite part of church!

I like dance because it's very fun to move my body and dance to the music. One song that means a lot to me is Count Your Blessings. It is special because when the storms of life come and make me afraid, I can remember all the good things God does for me. That gives me hope and helps me feel less scared.



Kids in grades 1-5 growing with Jesus

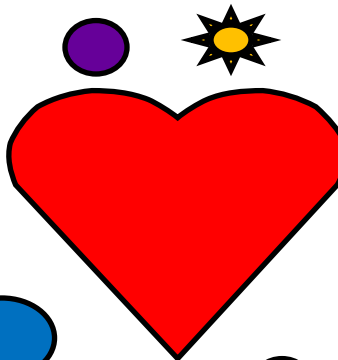
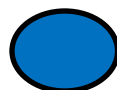
Nursery News

Last Sunday our little ones learned about the good Samaritan. They were asked who they could help in their homes or schools, etc.

They shared answers like Mommy, Daddy, aunts, siblings, and even pets. We wrote these on a paper that they got to decorate with hearts to show that helping

others comes from a place of love. They also got to use paint to add color and variety to their list of loved ones.

May we always remember to demonstrate the love of Jesus in all our circumstances!



*"Let the little ones come to Me..."
Infants through kindergarteners' starting life in Jesus' love*

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

Ladies of Faith, we are having our August luncheon again at Cam's Brick Oven Restaurant in St. Charles, MI at 1 p.m. on Saturday, the 10th. This is a "fun filled, getting acquainted with new friends, bumping into old friends, finally getting to talk to ladies we see often but never had a chance to know" type of gathering. Not to mention, being able to get a chance to have a pizza that was actually made in a brick oven, besides other delicious items on the

menu, and hearing a beautiful devotional, enjoying winning prizes while having fun at trivia games of sorts and ticket number drawing prizes. We so look forward to having you join us at a most delightful location and for you to enjoy with us a two-hour pleasurable time.

FYI – Girls, in 2025 on the weekend of May 16-17, a spring retreat has been planned in Gladwin, MI, for you all. Please mark your calendar if you are interested in coming together in a beautiful place for spiritual growth, relaxation, and a special time alone with God.

It's always so inspiring when we gather together as friends and receive an impartation from the Lord that brings us growth and boldness. As our pastors keep reminding us, God has called each and every one of us in His Word to be ministers who will "GO" and "DO." You will be receiving more information on this later.

Reminder – if you have not yet joined a cell group/Bible study, there is that very one out there that fits you and will bring you what you need. It'll be worth it!



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POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



An Adage from Pastor Adam

1st Timothy 4:14 & 4:12

“Do not neglect the *Gift that is in you, which was given to you by *Prophecy with the laying on of hands of the eldership.”

I'm sure we all have had prophecy or laying on of hands and/or you have read prophecy over yourself.

“So let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in Word, in conduct, in love, in Spirit, in faith, in purity.”

Your Gift is ready to be released upon others; so you can enjoy the fruit; and they will start to taste and see the goodness of God. Psalms 34:8

Everyone who seriously studies and applies God's Word learns firsthand that the Lord is good, and he also finds the Lord is an available and reliable stronghold. Further, the person who tastes and sees that the Lord is good finds blessings: true happiness.

All it takes is our going from Faith to Faith—hearing the Word, believing the Word, speaking the Word, acting on the Word—with each step our capacity increases. Renewing your mind, believing, and receiving are all you need to taste the goodness of God in every single part of your life.

I pray you taste and see the goodness of God in all you do.



Down to Details

5K Fellowships are held at the VanWormer Rail Trailhead.

The men's breakfast will be held at Miles Bakery & Deli.

The ladies' luncheon is held at Cam's Brick Oven.

Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

One of the goals of the Men's Ministry is to help other ministries in our church have successful special events. In July the Men's Ministry was able to furnish the hot dogs for this year's Church Picnic. We look forward to doing something similar for other events during the year.

Our Men's Fellowship Breakfasts have gotten off to a slow start this year due to the lack of a venue. Eventually, we will find the right place to meet, and when we do, every man who calls SOF his church should participate. Men's getting to know each other is a good thing, and it won't happen by just saying, "Hi," on Sunday morning.

We're still looking for more of you to join us in Adult Sunday School every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 9:30. We just finished Week 41 of learning how to rightly divide the Word. Right now, we're in the Book of Romans where Paul really explains what the Gospel of Grace is all about.

Be abundantly blessed!

