

# WORDS OF GRACE

A Publication of GracePoint Church

## Devoted to Prayer

*“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”*

**Colossians 4:2**

This word *devote* or *steadfastly* in our Bible passage is an imperative, present active verb, meaning that this is a divine command to live a life of perpetual, relentless, persevering prayer. A missional Christian lives a Word-saturated, Holy-Spirit-saturated and Prayer-saturated life.

We are instructed to be watchful and thankful.

We pray *inspired by Christian Hope...* knowing that the final word is *not* suffering, violence, or injustice, but the truth that Christ is Lord of all. King Jesus is right now orchestrating all things to usher in God’s kingdom through God’s praying people, and who will very soon return to earth to fully establish Christ’s New Earth kingdom forever!

We pray *empowered by the Holy Spirit...* who is stronger than our weak flesh that resorts to drowsiness, distraction, and doubt whenever we pursue a life of prayer.

We pray *ennobled by the Word of God...* that transforms us so we are not conformed to this world, that energizes in us New Covenant righteousness in Christ, and that gives us both the content of and authority in our prayers.

We pray *emboldened by Biblical Faith...*

which is able overcome all the attacks of the evil one, and to claim every promise of God.

We pray *enflamed by Agape Love...* which compels us out of our apathy and complacency to fervently intercede for the spiritually lost, the deeply hurting, the building up of the global Church, and the effectual proclamation of the gospel to every people group.

***“Christ and the Holy Spirit are perpetually praying for us every second of every day without ceasing.”***

God invites us to pray... not because He needs to be informed of our needs, not because He must be nagged until He gives in, not because our prayers somehow change the heart of God, but because in praying we rightfully acknowledge our dependency upon God. In praying our hearts are moved to the rightful posture of humility, brokenness, and utter

surrender, so that when God gives us what He *longs* to give us—what He was planning on giving us all along—there can be no doubt as to the source of blessing, so that we do not claim any credit, nor forget to be thankful.

How can we not be devoted to prayer when, as Martin Luther declared, *“Prayer alone is the almighty queen of human destiny!”*? Christ and the Holy Spirit are perpetually praying for us every second of every day without ceasing. That’s devotion to prayer! How can we possibly fail? Our praying is a joining in on the ceaseless, mighty praying of Christ and the Spirit!

*Pastor Chris*



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**GLORIFYING GOD  
BY**

**CONNECTING**  
people to God

**LOVING**  
God and each other

**GROWING**  
in grace and truth

**SERVING**  
Dubuque and the world

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## GracePoint Elders

through January 2018

### Equipping

Doug Mulder

### Missional Outreach

Doug Storlie

### Fellowship

Robin Wlochal

### Prayer

Pam Hillary

### Stewardship

Bob De Meester  
Dan Baker

### Worship

Beverly VanDerZyl

## GracePoint Deacons

through January 2018

Care  
Group Deacon

- 1 Lisa Gaylor
- 2 Pauline Brimeyer
- 3 Shirley VanDuser
- 4 Janet Metelak
- 5 Barb Berg
- 6 Suz Birch
- 7 Nicole Roling
- 8 Carolyn Arnold

### Deacon Moderator

Shirley VanDuser

# Go Into All the World

## This Summer Become a Missionary in our own Neighborhood!

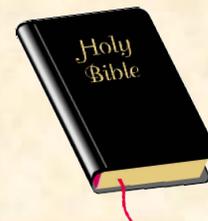
What: Short-term mission trip in Dubuque, Iowa.

When: Sometime this summer.

Where: Our church neighborhood (wherever that might be.)

How: Person to person giving away Bibles to young and old.

Why: Because we love Jesus and want to share His word.



*Come to the brainstorm meeting (May 9) or contact Steve Lemon.*

# Mark 16:25

## *Mexico Mission Trip 2018*

**Do you have a heart for mission and want some fulfilling physical exercise? Do we have a deal for you!**

The Missional Outreach Team is currently working on a mission trip to Cancun, Mexico to build relationships and help build a Presbyterian church. We need to know if there is enough interest from our congregation to go ahead with this planning. The trip would be sometime in March of 2018, so only a year away!

If you haven't been on a mission trip like this, you cannot know how life changing it can be.

Please pray about this opportunity. If you feel called to go—again or for the first time—contact Doug Storlie (destorlie@gmail.com) or Bev VanDerZyl (bjvdz66@mchsi.com).

Please respond soon so planning can begin.

*Gracias!*

## May 7 - Paul Both

Paul Both, founder and director of the South Sudan Education Mission (SSEM) will preach during worship and share after the meal. Everyone is invited to hear first-hand about the tragic daily living conditions of people in South Sudan and Ethiopia.



As a thank you for the generous gifts of GracePoint, SSEM will provide the main course (pork loin roast) for the potluck meal.

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided by the Fellowship Team.



## GracePoint Membership Changes

The Session of GracePoint voted recently to change membership categories to better align with the denominational standards. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) requires only two categories—members and nonmembers.

People join the church officially through membership classes or letter of transfer and a vote by the Session. From now on, GracePoint has two membership categories—members and nonmembers.

Two things can change a person's membership:

- 1) A written request by the member to be removed or transferred to another church.
- 2) A year's absence from worship on Sunday or special worship, e.g., Ash Wednesday.

If a member is physically unable to come to worship or lives in an assisted living facility long-term, an elder, deacon, or pastor will come to visit, and the attendance qualification is waived. Please let your elder, deacon, or pastor know if your ability to attend worship changes.

If a member, who is able, has not attended worship in a year's time, a letter is sent saying "We miss you." A member, who is able but has not attended for two years after receiving the letter, will be removed from the church membership list.

### Care Groups for Members

Each member is part of a Care Group with a deacon and an elder to "watch over" you. You receive regular contact and communication from your deacon and elder. If you do not know you have a deacon and elder, please check the Care Group list on the big bulletin board by the office.

Note: Regular attendees are important, too, at GracePoint. If you are not an "official" member and have a need or a question, please contact **any** deacon or elder. You will be heard and helped.

Vision Statement Goal:

No one in God's family at GracePoint should have an on-going need that our congregation is capable of meeting.

## Pill Bottle Fundraiser

Don't forget the Pill Bottle Fundraiser is in progress. We need to have empty bottles filled with pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, bills, or checks. This will be used for shipping Shoe Boxes in November, and that will be here soon. The EMPTY bottles are in a basket in the Connect Way alongside a basket for FILLED bottles.

Please save your change, put it in the bottles, and leave them in the basket on the shelf. This is a good cause, and really helps. Will you all help?

Thanks to all who have participated in this project. I appreciate it.

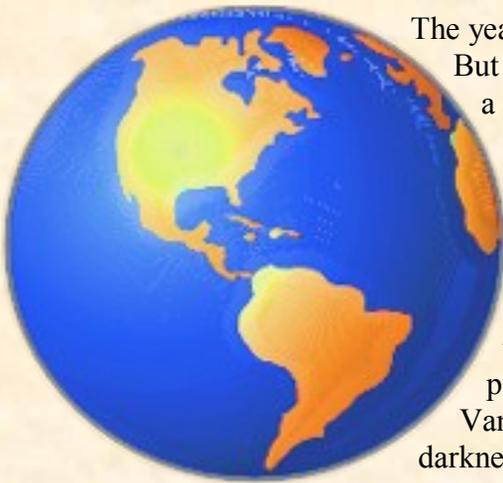
*Pat Kohler*

## GLOBAL MISSIONS UPDATE

# Siloam Eye Hospital

Rev. Sun-Tae Kim is the Director of Siloam Eye Hospital in Seoul, Korea. He sends thanks members of GracePoint who have supported the eye hospital these many years.

In December, they served 249 people in need of eye care and conducted free sight-restoring operations on 55 people. From November 27 through December 3, they offered the gift of free treatment and sight-restoring operations to the under privileged people in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Because we donate to the Siloam Eye Hospital, it has helped a total of 11,422 people with free eye preventive treatment and 792 people to restore his or her vision, through sight-restoring operations in 2016.



The year 2016 was economically difficult domestically and internationally. But with God's grace and help from people like us, they were able to give a gift of new hope to their neighbors in need and to reveal God's glory.

The Siloam Eye Hospital has affiliates not only in South Korea but internationally, including China, the Philippines, Uzbekistan, Tanzania, etc. Expensive medical equipment was donated to establish local eye clinics in those countries in order to provide medical services and to open a door for mission work. If circumstances permit, they have plans to establish a branch hospital in Vietnam and in the Republic of Vanuatu located in the South Pacific Ocean to help people find light from darkness via sight-restoration operations and to provide free preventive eye treatment.

Rev. Sun-Tae Kim especially asks for your prayers on a project launched last year to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their hospital. They hope to complete a research center by this year to promote further studies on eye diseases incurable by modern medicine such as absolute glaucoma, the end stage of macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusion, acute retinal necrosis, choroidal melanoma, etc. and offer effective treatment.

For those individuals who are unable to restore their sight despite receiving an operation, Siloam Center for the Blind gives support and information on all aspects of living with a visual impairment. Various programs including vocation rehabilitation training, counseling, education, sports and equipment to try are available. And for the very elderly visually impaired, a nursing home located in Yangju of Gyeonggi Province provides Lord's words of comfort and various programs to help them live joyful years. For the visually impaired with a combination of other disabilities, the Sullivan's Center for Learning Support is a specialized organization which provides learning opportunities and appropriate learning materials. It offers educational and rehabilitation to help individuals overcome their disabilities and become a contributing member of the society. Furthermore, social work is being carried out in four underdeveloped countries including Laos, Mongolia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The local visually handicapped who have lost hope are finding a new life through rehabilitation and vocational training in the name of the Lord.

*(Continued on page 9.)*

2017

MAY

2017

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	<b>1</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  6:30p Prayer Team	<b>4 NATIONAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b>  1:30p Global Missions Team  6:30p Faith Sharing Group	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship – Paul Both Preaching 11:45a Potluck and Mission Presentation  1:30p Bethany Home	<b>8</b>  6:00p Food Pantry 6:30p Property Team	<b>9</b>  6:30p Brainstorm Meeting - Summer Mission	<b>10</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  5:30p Fellowship 6:30p Prayer Team 7:00p Deacons	<b>11</b>  5:30p MOT 6:30p Faith Sharing Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	<b>15</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast  12:00p Golden Oldies  6:30p Session	<b>18</b>  6:30p Faith Sharing Group	<b>19</b>  6:00p ProtoStar	<b>20</b>  Small Group Retreat for Pastor's Doctoral Course
<b>21</b> 8:30a Chapel 9:00a GracePath 10:00a Fellowship Common Grounds Open 10:05a Prayer Room 10:30a Worship	<b>22</b>  6:00p Food Pantry	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:15a Men's Prayer Breakfast	<b>25</b>  6:30p Faith Sharing Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Summer Schedule Begins</b>  9:05a Prayer Room 9:30a Worship 10:40a Fellowship Common Grounds Open	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

## Clerk's Report

### Clerk's Report

#### Membership to Date

Active	129
Inactive	6
Total	135

Death of Melvin Oswald on March 31, 2017. Funeral Services at Cedar Memorial Park Funeral Home in Cedar Rapids, IA, with internment in Linwood Cemetery.

The Permanent Inactive Members were transferred back to the Active Membership Rolls:

Brenda Bloesch, Johanna Boettner, Verna Davis, Gary & Kate Duehr, Betty Emerson, Robert Goodman, C.R. (Pete) Jenner, Elaine Scherer & Dorothy Thomas. This was per Session Action on March 22, 2017.

Ray & Robin Wlochall were approved at the March 22 Session meeting to be delegates to the Presbytery meeting April 28-29 in Dousman, WI.

Summer Worship Schedule will be 9:30-10:40 a.m. Fellowship following. No Chapel or GracePath starting May 25-September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Worship in the Arboretum will be July 16. Watch bulletin for further details.

General Assembly will be held on June 21-June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sacramento, CA.

Paul Both, South Sudan Education Mission, will be a guest preacher on Sunday, May 7.

**PILL BOTTLE FUND RAISER IS STILL IN PROGRESS.** Please bring filled Pill Bottles and put in the basket in the Connect Center. The money collected helps defray the cost of shipping SHOEBOXES and you know the time will be soon upon us when the boxes start to be filled and brought in. We have plenty of EMPTY PILL BOTTLES and would like more filled. Thanks for all of you who have helped this project.

#### CORPORATE TREASURER'S REPORT:

##### GENERAL FUND

General Fund, March 1, 2017	(\$ 136.01)
Income	15,221.00
Expenses	-16,320.89
Transfer	-833.33
Ending Balance, March 31, 2017	(\$2,069.23)



## Monday May 15

Today's test is  
tomorrow's  
testimony.

*Got a story to  
share?*

Glorify God.

Share a testimony.

Inspire hope.

Submit your story to  
the office for an up-  
coming newsletter  
*Story of Grace.*

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Richard Cottrell
- 2 Ramona Hennings
- 4 Petey Jenner Jr.
- 5 Kristy Moore
- 5 Tim Walsh
- 12 Caleb Perreard
- 13 Mike Barsema
- 14 Sharon Baker
- 15 Jonathan Duehr
- 17 Ann Kress
- 17 Dixie Shaffer
- 19 Phyllis Kelley
- 21 Micah Godwin
- 23 Sherry Huston
- 26 Johanna Boettner
- 30 Georgia  
Schwarzmann



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Scott & Carolyn Arnold
- 25 Nick & Dawn Buol
- 27 Harry & Gerry  
Vandenberg
- 30 Chris & Kelly English
- 30 Cary & Paulette Kress



Mark your calendars at Sunday, July 16, for GracePoint's annual Worship in the Park.

Praising God with song, scripture, sermon, and prayer doesn't get any better than this!

Worship in the Park

## What's Brewing at Common Grounds?



- **Open Hours**

Sundays: 10am-12pm

Watch for *Spirited Exchanges*. Open conversations for young adults.

- **Classes**

Thursdays: 6:30-8:30pm  
Crossroads Faith Sharing Group  
Hosted by Patti Scheer & Sue Lemon.

- **Live Video Streaming**

Sundays: 10:30am

Watch Worship on TV.

*(Continued from page 5.)*

Through God's grace and the power of love shown in the charitable gift from GracePoint, the Siloam Eye Hospital seeks to offer dedicated service until the coming of Jesus; they ask for your continuous prayers and love in the year 2017.

All the staff members at Siloam Eye Hospital begin each morning with worship. Every morning, they think about the people who have helped them realizing how indebted they are to donors. They renew their commitment that each person will do his or her best to make all of you proud and joyful that you contributed to the hospital and thank all of you once again for your precious gift.

Rev. Sun-Tae Kim sends his love and blessings to all at GracePoint Church.

Members of the Global Mission Committee are: Scott Arnold, Ramona Hennings, Joseph Joseph, Pat Kohler, Don Sanders & Beverly VanDerZyl, Elder.

*Pat Kohler, Global Missions*

## GraceCompany Worshippers

Children, who have school experience through 5th grade, are part of the GraceCompany Worshippers.

Recently, they learned John 3:16 with the help of music and photos. Be sure to see their display on the Common Grounds gallery wall.



During the summer, GraceCompany Worshippers will continue to meet before the sermon starts on Sunday mornings.



**For God so Loved the World**

**PRAYER CHAIN**

To start a prayer, call Pat Kohler.

**Daytime Prayer Chain**

Pat Kohler 583-8978

Gerry Vandenberg 583-5338

Ramona Hennings 583-8739

Wilma Sanders 582-7346

Mable Boelk 557-9166

Sue Lemon 583-4454

Lois Trausch-Wolfe  
583-0534

**(Lois starts the evening chain.)**

**Evening Prayer Chain**

Glenda Temple 582-0464

Kim or Jerry Bell 582-4956

Barbara Berg 608-732-3035

Sharon Baker 451-4557

Karen Storlie 556-7548

**Volunteers are Priceless at GracePoint!**

**Worship Venue 10:30am**

**Communion Preparers** (May 7) Janet Metelak  
Suz Birch

**Communion Servers** (May 7) Doug & Karen Storlie  
Doug Mulder

	Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Room
<b>May 7</b>	Doug Mulder Ed Boettner	Vic Learn Marilyn Learn	
<b>May 14</b>	Dwayne Intveld Martha Intveld	Steve Lemon Sue Lemon	
<b>May 21</b>	Janet Metelak Ed Boettner	Dave Gaylor Lisa Gaylor	
<b>May 28</b> <b>(9:30am)</b>	Ray Wlochall Robin Wlochall	Rebekah Godwin Sara Scherf	

Please find your own subs. Substitute ushers are Mike or Ralph Vandenberg. Substitute greeters are Pat Kohler or Dixie Shaffer.

**ChildCare**

May 7 - Suz Birch, Janet Metelak

May 14 - Rachel Lemon, Marilyn Learn

May 21 - Sue Lemon, Glenda Temple

May 28 - Suz Birch, J'Neane Briden

**Check Out the Library**

The library is open Sundays from 9:00am—noon. Videos and books are available for checkout.

Stop by on Sunday to see the recently updated library!

Donations of new books or videos are always welcome. Questions?

Contact Bob Boelk, 557-9166.



## **Golden Oldies**

Please join us for our May gathering:

### **Date**

Wednesday, May 17

### **Venue**

GracePoint Church  
Fellowship Center

### **Time**

Noon

### **Program**

"What is new at the Dubuque Arboretum"

By Sue Lemon

*Any one 50 years and older is welcome.*

*This is a potluck meal with drink and table service provided. Please sign up in the Connect Way so we know what food is coming.*



### **Taking Care of God's House**

New Stain - New Paint - Repaired Support Beams - New Window

If the church looked brighter on Resurrection Sunday as you arrived, it might be because the siding and the trim had soaked up the new stain and paint. One hired man with brush, bucket, and tall ladder worked many long hours to put a little more life back into the exterior of the GracePoint sanctuary.

Also, the Property Team is overseeing the repair of six support posts in the sanctuary.

A new window was installed in the Prayer Room on the east side.

### **New Pictorial Directories are Here!**

If you had your individual or family photo taken for the new directory, please pick up your new Pictorial Directory in the Connect Way.

Write your name on the list so we know who has received one.

Don't forget to sign up to bring treats for fellowship time on Sundays.

You may also honor a birthday, anniversary, or special event.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Center.

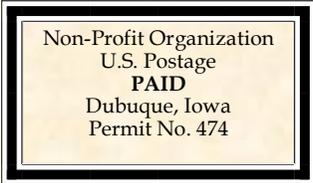
Contact Elder Robin Wlochal  
or  
Bob Boelk





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Return Service Requested

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# Summer Schedule

**Summer Sundays**

9:05am Prayer Time  
In Prayer Room

9:30am Worship

10:40am Fellowship  
In Common  
Grounds



**Summer Sundays**

Start on Memorial Day  
Weekend - May 28

Run through Labor Day  
Weekend - September 3