

fbc Faith News

*Love Christ.
Love Others.
Think Biblically!*



Nov. 30th, 2017

December 2017 | Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church

Always Thirsty

Mark Your Calendar

12.3
Communion/Food Pantry
Sunday
Women's Mentor Forms
Due
12.5
Deacon Meeting-6:30pm
12.9
Men's Ministry Council-
7:30am
12.10
Trustee Meeting-11:30am
12.14
Nursing Home Gift
Deadline/Pack-10am
12.16
Joy Food Pantry-9am-
11am
12.24
Worship Service at 9am
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service-7pm
12.25
Merry Christmas!
Church Office Closed
12.31
FBC Nursing Home
Services-1:30 & 3pm

"As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you O God. My
soul thirsts for God, for the living God."
~ Psalm 42:1-2a



Much like physical thirst, which is not quenched once, but must be quenched continually, our thirst for God is not quenched by a one-time act of faith or response. Our thirst for God must be constantly quenched through continually drinking from the living water of Christ. In November we experienced a wonderful, much needed, outpouring of refreshing spiritual water provided by God through the ministry of Life Action. Many of you participated in part or in whole, and do not need a comprehensive recap. But to summarize, we were blessed to have a team minister to our church from Sunday morning through Wednesday

night teaching timeless Biblical truths and engaging worship. We had more than 200 people every night for 4 nights straight. On the final night of the revival we had the opportunity to respond to how God had impacted our lives through the week, and the overwhelming response was a realization of our need for God. Somehow or other we seem to drift toward a sense of self-satisfaction, which leads to selfishness, which turns to grumbling, entitlement, anger, and a host of other sins. The Thirst Revival was a great reminder to come back to God and find contentment in Him. Some were convicted to ask forgiveness from people they had hurt, others needed to forgive those who had hurt them. All in all, peace with God through repentance and obedience is a priceless gift that is nearly impossible to describe. Our desire is to preach, teach and live out the authentic Christian life at First Baptist every single day, knowing how easily and how quickly we get thirsty for God. By God's grace we will be a place where rivers of living water flows.

In Christ, Pastor Luke

COLLIDE YOUTH!

During Youth Pastor Heather Quiroz' time off, we wanted to let you know that Mike Bowns will be the contact person for all youth programming questions.

The current youth volunteers will be coming alongside Mike to help keep the Collide Youth Program running smoothly. If you need to speak to Mike you can e-mail him at bethmike@frontiernet.net or call or text Mike at 309-371-2471.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

High School Hang Out Schedule for 2018

Jan. 28th-Game & Pizza at FBC at 6:30pm.

Feb. 25th-Movie Night at FBC at 6:30pm.

March 25th—Laser Tag- Meet at FBC at 1:30pm. Cost \$10.

****High School hangouts are for all kids grades 9th-12th so bring a friend!**

Collide All Night Out Coming in March!

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 2nd at 6pm through Saturday, March 3rd at 6am. We'll enjoy a performance at to Comedy Sportz, eat pizza at Hy-Vee, visit Youth Hope, watch a movie at the Aledo Opera House and end at the YMCA with some recreation.



Cost is \$22 but scholarships are available. All Night Out is for kids grades 6th-12th! Maximum amount of students for this event is 50 so watch and listen for event registration!

Before School Groups- Every week! - Monday 7:45am at the HS in Mr. Roberston's room, Tuesday 7:40 am at MCIS in the library, and Wednesdays 7:45am at MCJH in the Chorus room. Homeschool students are invited too!

El Salvador Youth Mission Trip- ONLINE Registration now open. Follow this link- bit.ly/ElSalvador201. Only 3 spots left!



If you don't know Mike Bowns, this is a photo of Mike with his family. Pictured are his wife, Beth and daughters Emily (left) and Xiomara (right).

Volunteer & Giving Information

Date

Nursery

Kids Worship

12/3/17	Ronda, Marcy & Rusty Smet & Katie Loving	Denise Bowker, Leslie, Brady & Jason Connell, Felicia Bonyng, Shannon S. & Mollie
12/10/17	Ronda, Janet Rind, Vivian Kopp & Veronica Moffitt	Denise Bowker, Tina McCaw, Shay & Lisa Litwiler, Maddie & Mollie Dunn & Todd Baldwin
12/17/17	Ronda, Crystal Clark, Susan Potthast & Shaylee Smet	Denise Bowker, Tammie Trout, Makayla Thomas, Jenna Ruh, Mollie, Melissa Struble & Barb Nesbitt
12/24/17	Ronda & Patsy Castor, Lisa Clawson, & Maddie Dunn	Denise B, Steph & Cassidy & Terry Leonard, Cimion Norwick, Mollie, Haley & Josh Johnson
12/31/17	Ronda Moffitt, Sharon Moffitt, Jan Crutcher & Bryce Moffitt	Denise B, Joyce Thomas, Brooke, Joe, Katy, Kaleb Loving & Mollie & Sarah Kellett

If you are unable to serve the day you are scheduled in the Nursery, please make arrangements in advance to switch with another person on the schedule. Please contact **Ronda Moffitt, Nursery Coordinator**, for all concerns on her Cell:(309) 371-3021. Thank you! **Kids Club Worship**—PLEASE come to the Fellowship Hall by **10:00am** so you can help & prep. *Please continue to let me know if you are switching with somebody. I have it set up so there are two adults plus myself helping at a time. Please do not switch with a couple if you are an individual. Thank you so much for your service! ~Mollie. If you need to contact Mollie about Kids Club Worship, call –309-371-6962.

Finance Board Member of the Month for December – Myron Higgins
Trustee of the Month for December — Aaron Struble

Prayer Team

Dec 3— 8am-Mary Lee Finch, Peggy Johnson & Kurt Diesch-10:15-Tina McCaw, Anita Parkinson & Ron Moffitt
Dec 10—8am-Marty South, Jeanne Barber, Laurie Louck-10:15-Jon & Lindsay Riche & Robyn Bottens
Dec 17-8amTroy & Tish Riddell-10:15am-Dave & Deb VanderHeyden & Lisa Litwiler
Dec 24—8am-Doug & Diane Hessman & Barb Bryant-10:15am Jason & Shelly Snyder & Vicki Korn
Dec 31—Volunteer Rotation

Weekly Attendance & Offering

DATE	11/5/17	11/12/17	11/19/17	11/26/17
8 AM	106	181	87	101
10:15AM	270	295	282	298
TOTAL	376	470	369	399

Date	11/5/17	11/12/17	11/19/17	11/26/17
General Fund Giving	\$11,389.29	\$9,155.00	\$10,962.45	\$10,723.00
Designated Giving	\$3,191.50	\$558.14	\$896.50	\$984.00
Total Giving	\$14,580.79	\$9,713.14	\$11,858.95	\$11,707.00

****Weekly Current Expense offering needed to meet 2017 budget - \$9,557.25**

Kids Club Ministry

Merry Christmas!

Last month, I watched this movie called "The Christmas Candle" where the new pastor moved to a village church where the villagers believed in the miraculous power of a legendary Christmas candle. The tradition of this candle provided a Christmas miracle to a chosen family with a special need or problem, providing hope for the people in the village as Christmas came around. They would leave their requests at the candle shop to hopefully be chosen as the fortunate benefactor of the candle.



The church folk didn't like the new reverend's thoughts about this candle because he saw how they put too much of their hope in this candle rather than in the hope of Jesus. He said something like this: All around you are people in need who need a miracle. Instead of waiting for the candle to fulfil a need, why don't you be that miracle? And then he proceeded to lead by example. In one scene, he asked an older lady what her need was and she said a knitting partner. In the next scene, a neighbor lady was coming to visit an older lady and when the older lady opened the door, the good reverend was sitting on the couch in the background with knitting needles in hand. He was her miracle.

This advent season we have an opportunity to be the miracle to those around us and it doesn't necessarily



have to have anything to do with money. It's usually an act of service or time that may be inconvenient, sacrificial, and fairly simple in nature. Being somebody's miracle is usually meeting a need they have through an act

of service or kindness. **Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interest of others."** Let's take the time this month to look for ways we can bless one another in simple ways. Let's provide a listening ear without rushing away, send a kind note to someone who is struggling, offer to babysit for a tired mom, wash the dishes for our spouse after a long day, stay behind after a gathering and help clean up, or visit that person you know is lonely. Let's be the miracle for others and enjoy this season of hope in Jesus! Merry Christmas! ~ Mollie



December Happenings

*A **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who has served in the youth & children's ministries this year! Please visit the tree at Kids Corner this month & take a "**Thank -You**" ornament from the thank-you tree.

Month of December: **Advent Family Bags** are available at Kids Corner for your family to be engaged in true meaning of Christmas while spending time together.

December 1st(7pm), 2nd (2pm), & 3rd (6pm)- The Gospel According to Scrooge at Corner Stone Christian Fellowship in Moline, IL. Visit www.cornerstonecgc.com for more info. This is a truly wonderful performance that puts Jesus in the center of Christmas and it's FREE.

December 8th & 9th 6:00-8:30pm- Walk through Bethlehem at Buffalo Prairie Evangelical Presbyterian Church-20320-183rd Ave. W. Buffalo Prairie, IL: Taste, smell, feel, and experience what it must have been like on that wondrous night. Visit the marketplace, see the potter, taste the bread, hear the angels, talk with Mary & Joseph. Rediscover the real meaning of Christmas. (Your family doesn't want to miss this free and truly amazing event in our area.)

December 10th- Sunday School Christmas Special: The Pre-k-5th grade SS classes will be singing at the beginning of the 10:15am worship service. Kids are encouraged to wear their Christmas clothes and arrive at Sunday School by 9am ready to practice. Parents will not need to pick-up kids until after service.

December 17th- Kids Sunday School Christmas Parties: The Pre-k through Jr. High SS classes are celebrating Christmas with a special treat, a fun craft, & fun games. Kids will go to their regular locations this Sunday. Parents are encouraged to recognize their child's teachers with a kind note or small gift.



December 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 7pm: The whole family is invited to FBC to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Come early to get seats! Childcare is available.

Women's Ministry/Marriage Mentor/Christmas

Women's Ministry Think Tank

****There will be no Women's Ministry Think Tank Meeting in December**

Cards for Brad – Cindy Maynard is collecting cards (Christmas and/or cards of encouragement and support) for Brad Olson who is currently in Kuwait. Cindy will send the cards on Dec 5th. Questions, call Cindy at 309-644-0028.

Are you interested in Women's Mentoring?

The Women's Ministry at FBC exists to actively connect women to Christ and to each other. We weren't created to do this life alone! The Women's Mentorship Program will be starting up again soon, and we invite you to prayerfully consider coming alongside another woman in the church to encourage her in her journey with the

Lord,
and
grow in
the love
of our
Savior



together. Why not consider being both a mentor to someone younger in the faith as well as being challenged by someone further down the road yourself? Peggy Johnson and Crystal Clark will be happy to answer any of your questions you may have about the Mentoring program. You can look for Profile Forms on the women's ministry table in the foyer, and can turn completed forms into the church secretary window no later than **December 3rd**. The official mentoring season is January-August 2018, but we welcome all ladies to invest in one another's lives the entire year long.

MARRIAGE MENTOR TRAINING COMING TO FBC!

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Marriage Mentoring

In partnership with Love & Respect



Provided by Matt Loehr of Dare To Be Different in Partnership with Love And Respect.

Where: First Baptist Church Aledo

When: Friday, Jan. 12th from 6-9pm &
Saturday, Jan. 13th From 8:30am-12:30pm

Who: All married couples who are in a healthy marriage relationship and want to consider helping other couples.

Sign Up on Sunday's Connection Card.



Christmas Service Schedule

On Sunday, December 24th we will have 1 morning worship service at 9am. There will be no Men's group or Sunday School that day. In addition to the 9am service we will have our 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

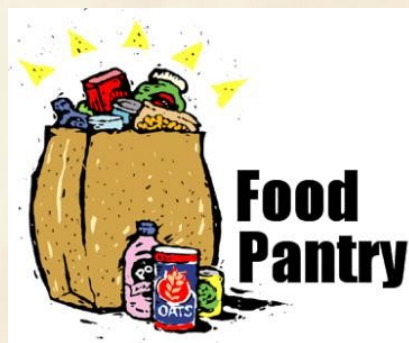
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at First Baptist Aledo

We will have our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7pm on Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24th. It's a wonderful family tradition! Please invite your friends and family to join us as there is always plenty of room at "the inn!"

Christmas Poinsettia

We will once again place Poinsettias in the church "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" loved ones. Please contact the office at 582-7812 by Sunday, Dec. 10th with the name of the person being remembered as well as your name. The cost for a Poinsettia is \$10.

Other Ministry Opportunities



Communion/Food Pantry Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 3rd is Communion Sunday which is also the Sunday we emphasis bringing non-perishable food items for the Mercer County Food Pantry in Aledo. You can leave the food items in the grey tote in the church lobby.

The Blessing Box

The Blessing Box, which is located on the north side of our church, is a ministry gives a quick help to anyone in need. People can drive up, open the door and pick out needed items. The Blessing Box is cared for by volunteers on a daily basis. Items that we try to keep stocked are proteins, soups, boxed dinners, rice, oatmeal, fruits, and vegetables. Other items that we try to keep stocked as supplied are baby items, bar soaps, deodorants, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper and feminine products. This ministry is in addition to the Mercer County Food Pantry. Items can be left in the pink "Blessing Box" in the church lobby.



Christmas Gifts for the Nursing Home Residents

It is now time to begin bringing gifts for the residents of Genesis Senior Living & Aledo Health and Rehab Care Center. Your unwrapped gift may be placed in the box marked NURSING HOME GIFTS in the church lobby from Sunday, Nov. 12th until 10am on Thursday, Dec. 14th. Both nursing homes are so appreciative of the gifts! Gift suggestions include: Small fleece blankets, dressy scarves, lotion, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, aftershave, stamps, stationary, diabetic socks, slipper socks with grips, chocolate candy, Costume jewelry, cube box kleenex, Christmas wrapping paper, tape and tags. Please DO NOT give powder or open back slippers. Cathy Griswold is coordinating this effort and would love to have anyone interested in helping sort and pack the gifts come to the church lobby on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 10am. Any questions, call Cathy Griswold at 582-2838 or the church office at 582-7812. Thank you for your help with this project.



The First Baptist Deacon Fund Project

Did you know the we have a "Deacon Fund" at First Baptist? The purpose of the Deacon Fund is to assist people in our community in emergency situations with things like heat or electric bills, groceries, medical bills, rent, etc. All the cash money that is put in the offering on the 5th Sundays throughout the year as well as the Christmas Eve Offering all go to support the Deacon Fund. The fund is currently pretty low so if it's on your heart to make an offering towards the

Deacon Fund, that would be greatly appreciated. Just put "Deacon Fund" in the memo of your check or in the comment section of your online giving.

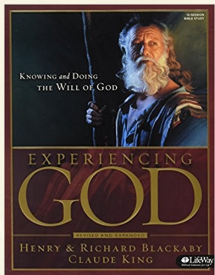
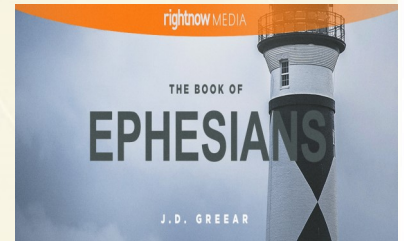
Wednesday Night Live!
Winter/Spring classes for adults and children!
Wednesday Nights Jan. 3rd-March 21st from 6:30-8pm
Call the church office TODAY to register—309-582-7812

Adult Classes



The Gospel Project—The Church on Mission—A study of the book of Acts- Taught By Kevin Ricke at their home 1100 S. College Ave., Aledo—Class is Free to Attend— features 13 Bible study sessions and easy-to-follow talking points for group time with an emphasis to respond in mission. This session's study is *The Church on Mission*, covering *The Spirit Who Empowers* (Acts) and *The God Who Sends* (Acts).

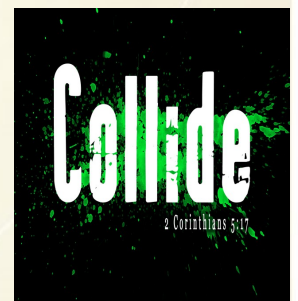
Women's Study—J.D. Greear study on Ephesians—Taught By Sheri Olson at Barb Bryant's Home—302 SW 4th St. Aledo—Class is Free to Attend. *Has it ever dawned on you that nothing has ever dawned on God?* He knew before the world began that His people would face hardship, so He gave us His Word. The Book of Ephesians is a survival manual—it equips believers to thrive in a world that hates the message of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle writes to encourage believers to live well—we've been lifted from the graveyard of sin and called to shout the gospel into the darkened world. Pastor and author J.D. Greear walks through the powerful words of Paul. In 9 sessions, J.D. digs into the text of Ephesians verse-by-verse and challenges believers to live out the gospel. If the people of your city, of your school, of your family are going to hear the gospel, it's going to be from your mouth. Encounter Ephesians, and get swept up into the story of Jesus.



Steve Struble's Class—Experiencing God—Held at FBC—Written by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King, the Experiencing God Bible Study is based on the Experiencing God book, which has sold millions of copies worldwide. Through examination of biblical and contemporary illustrations, participants will understand and apply seven realities of experiencing God. Churches will be helped to better function as the body of Christ, as members understand how to experience God as a church.



Kids Club is a high-energy, fun-filled, Christ-centered program where kids worship, serve, learn, and play together. All kids ages 3 years old through 5th grades are invited. A nursery is also provided for infants through 2 years old. For the teens, we offer Collide Youth Group. Kids grades 6th – 12th will enjoy snacks, fun games and most importantly they will learn what it means to know God personally through Jesus Christ. All classes and programs are open to the community so even if you don't attend church at First Baptist you are welcome to join our classes which are all FREE to attend. To register, please call the church office at 309-582-7812.



Kids and Youth Programs

There will also be Kids Club for kids ages 3 years old through 5th grade and Collide for grades 6th - 12th as well as a nursery. All classes and programs are free!

- Kids Club for ages 3 years old through 5th grade.
- Collide Youth Group— 6th-12th grade.

General Announcements

LA Dream Center FBC Spring 2018 Mission Trip

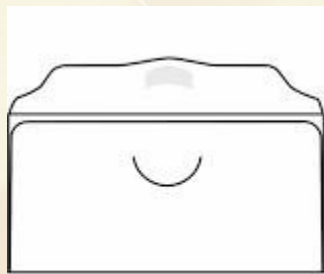


DREAMCENTER

Adult mission trip details! An informational meeting will be held in the Enon Room Sunday, Dec. 3rd following the 10:15am service.

First Baptist Church is headed to Los Angeles, California April 9th-14th, 2018 where we will be serving the LA Dream Center. During this week we will be serving impoverished communities and ministering to those in need. If are interested in joining, we are asking for a \$100 deposit to secure your spot on the team. For more specific details on who the Dream Center serves you can visit their website at www.dreamcenter.org. Please see Jenny Dixon (309-373-0104-Jenny's cell phone) for more info or to join our team!

Offering Envelopes



If you have been assigned a box of offering envelopes in 2017 and you no longer wish to use the envelope system, please call the church at 309-582-7812 so we can cut down on any waste.

If you aren't currently assigned an offering box and would like one, also let us know by calling the office.

Come Experience an Interactive

*Walk Through
Bethlehem*



TASTE, SMELL, FEEL, AND EXPERIENCE WHAT IT
MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE ON THAT
WONDEROUS NIGHT.

VISIT THE MARKETPLACE, SEE THE POTTER,
TASTE THE BREAD, HEAR THE ANGELS, TALK
WITH MARY AND JOSEPH.

REDISCOVER THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

DECEMBER 8TH & 9TH 6:00-8:30PM

**BUFFALO PRAIRIE EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
20320 183RD AVE W.
BUFFALO PRAIRIE, IL 61237**

Coming up in January!! January Annual FBC Business Meeting



The First Baptist Church Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **Jan. 14th** following the 10:15am service. ****Please have your yearly committee and quarterly reports to the church office by Thursday, January 4th as the Church Council meets on Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 7pm.**

Birthday

Evelyn McCaw	December 1
Vicki Reid	
Amber Shook	December 2
Brandon Hedrick	
Alexandra Ricke	December 4
	December 5
Dale Franks	December 6
Holly Brown	
Carl Dennison	
Mick Louck	December 7
Elden Cirks	December 9
Charlie Douglas	
Sarah Brown	
Wayne Schweninger	December 10
Payton Sedam	December 11
Robbie Kernan	December 15
Amber Adams	
Merle Bodeen	December 17
Bill Anderson	
Rosalee Sproston	December 19
Cara Svoboda	
Sherry Huffstutler	December 21
Karole Franks	December 24
	December 26
Peggy Johnson	December 30
Crystal Clark	
Ed Schrock	
Charlie Schultz	
Danika Higgins	December 31

Anniversary

Dean & Sharon McCormick

Steve & Adell Struble



A Word From Pastor Seth

The Greatest Gift



We will all be searching for those perfect and wonderful gifts to give. Maybe we will not search for wonderful and

perfect. Christmas time is a great time to stop and reflect on God's perfect and wonderful gift given to the world, His son Jesus Christ.

I'm looking forward to celebrating this gift with you throughout the month of December and at the Christmas Eve Service. ~Seth

Messiah Lutheran Church

41st Annual Christmas Dinner Dec. 25th at 1pm



The Messiah Lutheran Church invites everyone to their annual Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, Dec. 25th at 1pm. They offer rides or carry out service to those who are home-bound. There is no charge for the dinner

but they do need an RSVP—call the church office at 582-5261 no later than Thursday, Dec. 21st to make your reservation. The Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 509 NE 2nd St. Aledo.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner 2017 Update



The 3rd Annual FBC Community Thanksgiving Meal is in the books! We officially served 84 meals to the

community and 46 meals to the volunteers for a total of 130 meals served. Last year we served 116 meals.

To all of those of you who provided food donations, cooked or served at the dinner, thank



you for serving the Lord. Thank you for making this day into a true Thanksgiving with an open table to all. Pastor Seth



Dear Baptist Church Members,

Thank you very much for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner. How thoughtful! It made my day.

Edith Nesbitt

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Email: fbcaledo2@frontiernet.net
www.firstbaptistaledo.com

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PRAYER AND CONCERNS—IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PRAYER CHAIN
PLEASE CALL: THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 309-582-7812

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Rod Lyttle and family, Trisha Hammond, Gordon Pape, Family of Loraine Pickrel, Tricia & Rory Conway, Marshall Easley, Jim Anderson, Nancy McClay, The family of Matt Schmidt, Janet Rind, Patty Smith, Veronica Moffitt, Jacee Columbia, Loraine Pickrel, Lin McClay, Tony VanderSnick, Family of Angie Green, Connie Freeman, Family of Alan (Bear) Benson, Lance, Bridget & Jared Wedekind, Travis Mitchell, Kelsey DeSplinter, Ruth Ann Young, Linda Hamilton, Elden Cirks, Helen Slater, Allison Adams, Rosalee Sproston, Lisa Hammill, Noah Houston, Kathy Carlson, Bob & Myrna Sell, Bill McKinley, Steve Bowns, Kris Salmon, Gavin Swafford, Calvin Frye, Sheryl Robertson, Doris & Marc Dewey, Pastor Mark Harris, Lisa McWhorter, Marilyn Hessman, Mary Flint, Francie Jane Easley, Barbara McPhinney, Henry Leichty & Lauryn Russell

NURSING HOME

Bill McKinley, Marge Goding, Betty Weeks & Bob Sell

MISSIONARIES & MILITARY

Danika Higgins & Rigoberto Cruz

Brad Olson, Holly Mattson, Joe Elliott, Spencer Zielke, Jon Szalonek, Christopher Schultz, Eric Nelson, Tyler Mattson, Kyle Mandle, Charles Schultz, Terry Schaefer, Matt VanderHeyden & Tara Helmick

OTHER CONCERNS

The church & all decisions