

March 2025

# Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

## New Concrete at Office

The landscape of the back of the Church Office and Activity Center received a new look this week! A concrete pad was poured outside the back doors to help with drainage and also create a space for some outdoor Youth Activities.



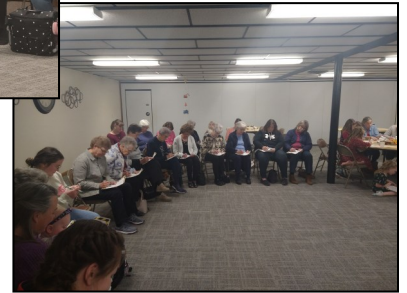
## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

During the Sunday School hour on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we welcomed Randy and Judy Pretzer as new members. Randy and Judy were able to share their testimonies with us on how God has lead them through their lives.



# Baby Shower

Sunday afternoon, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, there was a baby shower for Jasmine Leddy and baby Boaz. The shower was a construction theme. When guests showed up to the shower they had the challenge to be a “Dirty Diaper Detector” and guess what kind of candy made the dirty diaper. During the shower everyone had the opportunity to guess what Jasmine would pick on a “Mommy, Would you Rather” game. Throughout out the shower several of the guests were asked to pray for Boaz, each one having a different age range through his life to pray for him as the develops through life.



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## Women's World

Six ladies from Garden were able to attend the Women's World Conference hosted by Manhattan Christian College on the K-State campus on February 21-22. This years conference “Ready” featured Heather M. Dixon. The overall message of the weekend was to follow Joshua's example of living courageously and putting your toe in the water, knowing that God is faithful to be with you every step of the way. The Women's ministry was able to provide lodging for the Garden women at an Airbnb.



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## MEN'S BREAKFAST



The newly formed Men's Ministry hosted a breakfast at the Activity Center on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Theo Rempel, Gerhard Fast, Nathaniel Goossen, Kevin Kohls and Bill Mierau organized and made the breakfast. Men be on the look out for future men's events as they begin to plan future events.



# Vonnie's Views

I'm not someone who typically makes New Year's resolutions. However, in February 2024, I realized that I hadn't been disciplining my body to maintain good health. My Fitbit tracks my walks, and when I reviewed the data from the past 16 months, I was surprised to see that I had been walking far less than I had thought. So, on February 1, 2024, I decided to make a change. I committed to walking for at least 30 minutes, five days a week. As a backup goal, I aimed to walk a minimum of 20 times per month.

The hardest part of walking is simply getting out the door. Once I've made that decision, the rest is easy—even on cold or windy days.

Over the next 12 months, I did it! My trusty Fitbit tracked my walks, and gradually, walking became a habit I looked forward to. However, this past cold and snowy February, I struggled to keep up with my routine. I let it slide, despite having walked indoors every day in January. Now, the challenge is restarting a habit I thought I had fully established.

As I reflected on this, I thought of the Apostle Paul's words:



*"...train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)*

Paul acknowledged that physical training has some value, but he emphasizes that godliness is of far greater value—both now and in the life to come. Daily time in the Word of God is a spiritual discipline. Like walking, the first step is making the choice to do it. The hardest part is sitting down, opening your Bible, and starting to read. After that, it's a daily commitment to repeat the process. Like my walking routine, I've found that I'm more likely to stick with it when I have a Bible reading plan to follow and accountability—whether it's another person or a way to track my progress. And, like walking, when circumstances interrupt my Bible reading, I need to restart the habit.

Consistent walking has brought me increased energy and endurance. I genuinely feel better, both physically and mentally, when I walk regularly. Similarly, spending time in the Bible every day has helped me grow spiritually. It has deepened my trust in God and is transforming me to be more like Christ. Through reading the entire Bible multiple times over the years, I've gained a broader and deeper understanding of God's overarching plan as revealed in Scripture.

This year, I'm combining two of my goals: while I walk, I will be memorizing Scripture. I've started carrying notecards with me, learning Bible verses phrase by phrase, step by step.

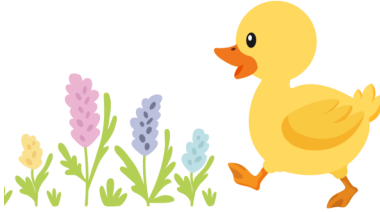

What about you? Are you growing through daily Bible reading? I understand that life can be busy, and you might feel like you don't have time to read the Bible every day. Here's the thing: we get to choose our priorities. When we don't have time for something, it simply means something else has taken priority. You get to decide whether the Bible is your priority—or if something else is.





## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: Romans 1:9—For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you in my prayers.**

| Sun  | Mon   | Tues   | Wed   | Thurs   | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
|                  |   | <b>1</b> Pray for Mark & Amy Albin, Marlo & Wilda Becker, Barb Beesley, Elaine Brown.              | <b>2</b> Pray for Laverle Buse-nitz, Milton & Tonia Busenitz, Stan & Imogene Carlisle.            | <b>3</b> Pray for Ste-ve & Mandi Crist, Ben & Pat Dirks, Gerhard & Vonnie Fast, Cody & Lana Forester. | <b>4</b> Pray for Dale & Shelly Frie-sen, Kyle & Ka-ris Friesen, Larry & Jean-ette Friesen.    | <b>5</b> Pray for Mary Friesen, Norm Friesen, Ernie & Florene Goe-ring, Jenny Goering.           |
| <b>6</b> Pray for Verne Goering, Elaine Goossen, Joe & Denise Goossen.                             | <b>7</b> Pray for Na-thaniel & Jor-dana Goossen, Mel & Leda Graybill, Kyle & Katie Hanzlicek. | <b>8</b> Pray for Lindley & Kayla Harms, dale & Jan Hastings, Rob & Tami Hiebert, Donna Hostetler. | <b>9</b> Pray for Art & Cindy Hux-man, Ethel Hux-man, Bryson & Grace Huxman, Gary & Marci Huxman. | <b>10</b> Pray for Jerry & Melinda Jantz, David & Lynette Janzen, Gary & Kathy Janzen, Karma Kitto.   | <b>11</b> Pray for Derik & Chan-telle Klaassen, Cyndi Koehn, Ryan & Erin Koehn.                | <b>12</b> Pray for Kevin & Kim Kohls, Betty Krehbiel, Ken & Kimberly Kropf.                      |
| <b>13</b> Pray for Christopher & Jasmine Leddy, Scot & Jenny Loyd, Chad & Val Mason, Ty-ler Mason. | <b>14</b> Pray for David & Tayna McCloud, Terry & Darla McCloud, Dar-ren & LuAnn McMannis.    | <b>15</b> Pray for Bill & Sharon Mierau, Leo & Sheryl Miller, Dennis & Diane Morrison.             | <b>16</b> Pray for Dizzy & Carla Murphy, Barb Nelson, Chris & Julie Nelson, Eldon & Eva Pankratz. | <b>17</b> Pray for Roger & Donna Pfaff, Randy & Judy Pretzer, Simon & Danae Pyle.                     | <b>18</b> Pray for Caleb & Cynthia Quick, Jim & Mary Regier, Theo & Joan Rempel, Julia Renich. | <b>19</b> Pray for Steve & Janel Rogers, Larry & Dot Rowe, Nao-mi Rutschman, Abe & Judy Schmidt. |
| <b>20</b> Pray for LaVerne Schmidt, Betty Schrag, Matt & Rashelle Schrag, Norv & Ev Schrag.        | <b>21</b> Pray for Jasper & Evelyn Scott, Todd & Carmen Selzer, Aaron & Elisa-beth Smith.     | <b>22</b> Pray for Don & Rosie smith, Jim Smith & Carolyn Wohlgemuth, Lila Smith, Sha-ron Smith.   | <b>23</b> Pray for Karen Smith-son, Betsy & Sheila Snow, Larry & Donna Sperling.                  | <b>24</b> Pray for Dennis & Tere-sa Stahl, Josh & Karen Stinch-comb, Ben & Jan Stucky.                | <b>25</b> Pray for Jim & Joanne Stucky, Steve Stucky, Twila Stucky, Ron & Emily Sunquist.      | <b>26</b> Pray for Arnold Vogt, Gerald & Arlene Vogt, Lloyd & Sue Vogt, Scott & Amy Vogt.        |
| <b>27</b> Pray for Stan & Marcy Vogt, Kathryn Vogts.   | <b>28</b> Pray for Verne & Janet Voth, Polly Weesner, Larry & Suzanne Wiens.                  | <b>29</b> Pray for Ruby Winsky, Delvin & Cherie Wohlgemuth.  | <b>30</b> Thank God for good church family to grow, worship and serve alongside.                  |                   |  |  |

# Hansen Update March 2025

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Dear Praying Friends,

**1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.**

Recently I was struck by this verse and how it so concisely tells us how we as God's children show love to each other. It is by loving and obeying God. In other words, my love for Rachel (and other believers) is best expressed by my love for God and by my obedience to His Word.

Rachel and I are both doing well. We count it a privilege to be involved in the ministry and at the same time be able to engage with 4 of our sons and two daughters-in-law who live within a 30 min. radius. Our other 4 sons and families as you know are scattered in Germany, Central Asia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. We are indeed thankful that technology allows us to connect with them so easily. It is fun to see how fast our grandchildren are growing.

## **Florida**

In January and February, we haven't made any trips, though there has been plenty of work to keep busy with in the office. However, in March I will spend 10 days in Florida to connect with coworkers at the headquarters and also for meetings regarding security for missionaries. I work with a good team, who monitor different parts of the world. As events happen, they are able to engage and give helpful advice to our coworkers as they determine whether to stay or leave, and then if they leave, when to return. Our goal is to enable missionaries to be able to stay in ministry for the long haul.

## **Europe**

Due to meetings being scheduled in May in Germany, Rachel and I felt we should take the opportunity to also visit the Faroe Islands. It is already well over two years since our last visit. There are many assemblies there that pray for us, and it is a long time since we visited some of them. So, we leave here at the beginning of April. We will stop briefly in Norway, on the way to the Faroes, to spend a couple of days with coworkers. Then we will spend 3 ½ weeks in the Faroe Islands. Towards the end of April, we make our way to Germany. We will be staying with Benjamin, Wina, Noah, and Amelie (foster daughter) while there.

First, a small group of us will meet to further develop our communication and connections plans. Then the leadership team I work with will also be meeting at the Ethnos360 Germany headquarters. Part of our meetings will also include our European leaders.

You may well remember that we served in Papua New Guinea from 1985 to 2011. In our current ministry we still stay connected with what is happening in PNG. Due to home assignments and a variety of things, there will be a shortage of leaders in PNG starting this summer. Because of this need, we were asked whether we would be willing and able to spend a significant amount of time in PNG over the next year or two. We have been praying and asking God for wisdom in deciding what we should do. Rachel and I are not able to stay for an extended period, but we are considering whether we should spend some periods there starting in the fall and for the next year.

**Please pray with us regarding the following:**

- That my time in Florida will be useful for helping coworkers around the world who face security issues.
- That we will be an encouragement to the team working in Norway.
- For my preparation for upcoming speaking opportunities in the Faroe Islands.
- That we will be a blessing here in Nebraska, as well as in the other places we will be spending time over the next several months.
- For wisdom in making the decision concerning spending time in Papua New Guinea to help the leadership team.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for us. We greatly appreciate it! Please let us know how we can pray for you.

In Christ,

Peter and Rachel Hansen

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**Headquarter address:** Ethnos360, 312 W First St., Sanford, FL 32771-1231

# Off to Bible School!

It blows our mind every time we think about it.  
Our son in the faith has gone off to Bible school!



Four years ago Guilherme was coming along with his dad and two brothers to play ping-pong. At the time, he was 14 and didn't know what a Bible reference was if he was looking right at it! But they came for the ping-pong, for the games, to play with the other kids. For a few weeks, their dad always came with them to be sure they were in a safe space. After a while, his dad was confident and left his boys to come alone. For a long time his brothers came along with him, but then they went their own way.

In Guilherme's heart, though, the Gospel had found fertile soil. Over the next several years we saw him grow into a leader amongst his peers. We saw him step up to opportunities to serve. We never saw him back down from a challenge to sing, to preach, to serve, to help. He has blessed us.

He had been considering Bible school as he took a gap year, but after attending a missions conference by our association of churches, he had conviction. He decided he really did need to go to Bible school to prepare himself for serving the Lord "somewhere in the world."

Did he ever demonstrate that conviction! At the end of November he determined in his heart that this is what he was going to do. In December he applied to World of Life Bible school and drafted a list of people he knew whom he would challenge to invest in God's Kingdom through his training. Then in the month of January alone, he diligently shared with all on his list. In less than a month he surpassed his target support level! Not only did he show conviction in his diligence and boldness, but he saw God fling the doors wide open for this next step in his spiritual walk with the Lord.



This is one of our first pictures of him. Some of you might recognize it if you have his prayer bookmark we handed out a couple of years ago.

Guilherme really took advantage of all the opportunities he was given. He studied, he worked, he served, he enjoyed fellowship. We are excited to see where God will take him from here.

*Joshua & Camila Goossen*

*Avant*



**CAFÉ & GRAÇA**  
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