

September 2025

Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

New Beginnings for our Students

The start of a new School year also marks the start of a new year for Garden Kids and Youth Group. The Youth Group kicked off on August 20 at the Activity Center. This year the group has merged with Harvest Church. Each Wednesday they begin the night with supper, play games and have a lesson lead by Eric Mosher, Pastor of Harvest Church, the subject this fall has been *Having a Faith of your Own*. There has been an average of 25 youth each week.



While the Youth Group has had several meetings already, the Garden Kids just kicked off their year this past Wednesday, September 17. Their evenings will look similar to the Youth's as they begin with a Wednesday night meal for families from 5:30—6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall, have their own game time and lessons. This year the 3 year olds through 2nd grades are going through the Heart Shaper curriculum. It is a Bible centered curriculum that helps kids build a relationship with God and His Word. The 3rd through 6th graders are going through curriculum from Children Desiring God on *How Majestic is Your Name*. They will be studying the Names of God in the Bible, which are a reflection of His character that is so glorious He cannot be described by a single name.



Men's Ministry Skeet Shoot

The Men's Ministry planned a night of clay shooting on September 6th. Even though the location had to be changed because of rain during the week, it was a beautiful evening for them to meet at the church for supper of Jambalaya and to shoot clays. Dr. Don Davis was able to share a short devotional with the men.



GAME NIGHT

The Women's ministry hosted a Game Night for the ladies of Garden on September 13th at the Activity Center. The game of the night was Bunco. Before the games began care packages were assembled for our 6 college students. Ladies also wrote notes of encouragement to the students to be included in the packages. And of course a ladies night isn't complete with out snacks!





With the kids back in school, we are reminded that we should all be life-long learners. 2 Timothy 2:15 in the KJV says, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." In the Amplified version it says, "Study *and* do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling *and* skillfully teaching the word of truth."

Reading good books, but keeping the Bible in first place is definitely a way to study, and learn, and grow in the Lord. A few of the books recently added to the adult library will help you grow.

Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas with the subtitle - *What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?* That is definitely counter-cultural today but so Biblical!

Here be Dragons: Treading the Deep Waters of Motherhood, Mean Girls, and Generational Trauma by Melanie Shankle.

This is her story growing up and then helping her daughter navigate difficulties and witnessing how God gave them strength through the very hard times.

I very seldom read a book twice with so many good books out there. But as a teenager I read, *Light From Heaven* by Christmas Carol Kauffman and again read it as an adult, it still was very good. The true story of Joseph Armstrong, is a testimony to God's faithfulness. Growing up with a difficult father and life could have left him very bitter. But a devout mother and God's mercy helped him rise above his circumstances and live a life of purpose.

~Denise Goossen



Promotion Sunday was held during the first half of the Sunday School hour on August 24. Promotion Sunday is a time to recognize those students who are moving up to a different Sunday School class for the next School year and gives an opportunity to share what is coming up in the different classrooms in the Junior Sunday School department. This year the kids opened up the promotion by sharing a few songs they have been working on during Sunday School opening with hand bells.





College Students 2025-2026

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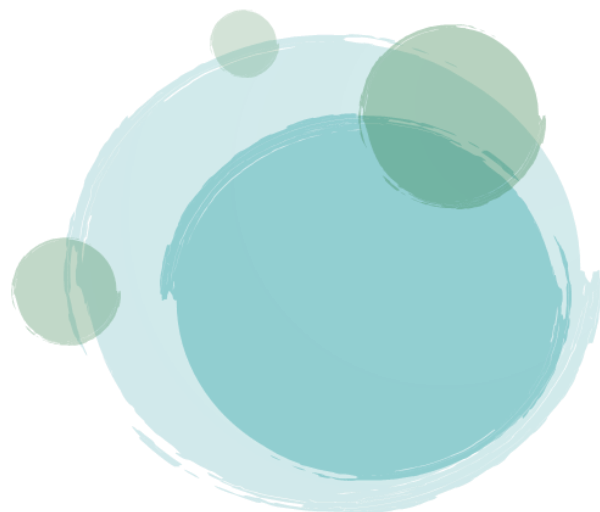
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Vonnie's Views

This past weekend, Gerhard and I traveled to Minnesota for his 50-year high school reunion. It was a good time for both of us to reconnect with his classmates of half a century ago. Life truly is, as James reminds us, “a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” And yet, within this fleeting mist, God calls us to live with eternal purpose (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).

Since these were not my own classmates, I found myself quietly observing. The marks of aging were as varied as the people themselves. Some changes were simply the result of genetics or illness—things none of us can control. Others reflected choices made over the decades: how people cared for their bodies, the kinds of work they pursued, or the lifestyle they embraced. In every face and story, I was reminded of Psalm 90:12: “So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

Again and again, I heard people say, “How did fifty years go by so fast?” Life does feel like a blink, especially when we look back. A reunion like this makes it clear there is now less time ahead than behind. Scripture does not minimize life’s brevity; instead, it calls us to live fully and intentionally with the time we are given. There is still time to invest in what will last forever. Even the experiences of our past may be what God uses as the foundation for ministry in the days ahead.

One of the most encouraging moments came over breakfast at the hotel. We struck up a conversation with the sister of one of Gerhard’s classmates, who had returned to town while her sister attended reunion activities. She shared her testimony: though raised in a church that did not teach the gospel of grace, she and her husband later found Christ through a small group Bible study. Today, they are walking with the Lord in a healthy church and praying for their adult children to also know Him. Her face shone as she spoke, and our hearts were lifted.

That joyful testimony stood in contrast to other conversations with people still searching for meaning apart from Christ. Paul’s words came to mind: “...we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Dane Ortlund, writing to believers, puts it beautifully: “If you want to be a solid, weighty, radiant old man or woman someday, let the pain in your life force you to believe your own theology. Let it propel you into deeper fellowship with Christ than ever before. Don’t let your heart dry up. He’s in your pain. He is refining you. All that you will lose is the Self and misery that in your deepest heart you want to shed anyway. God loves you too much to let you remain shallow.” (*How Does God Change Us?* p. 65)

Wherever you are on your journey, today is the day to choose what matters most. If you are young, make God the center of your life—immerse yourself in His Word, live counter to the culture, and be an arrow pointing your generation toward heaven. If you are in mid-life, perhaps adjusting to an empty nest, use your new margin to invest in your neighbors, your community, and deeper study of Scripture. If you are in your later years, follow the psalmist’s example: keep pursuing God, look back with gratitude, recognizing how every experience has been shaped by God’s loving hand to draw you nearer to Him.




Life is short. But in Christ, it is filled with eternal significance. Live today with that hope and that purpose!



OCTOBER

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: John 10:27-28—My sheep hear my voice and I know them & they follow Me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Pray new believers have someone to come alongside them & disciple them.	2 Pray for Good News Club this afternoon in Hesston.	3 Pray Holy Spirit gives Pastor Dizzy the words & us the ears to hear.	4 Pray for teachers & mentors working with residents at New Hope Shelter.
5 Pray more people are drawn to our church to hear the Word of God.	6 Pray God opens our eyes to any changes we need to make to obey Him.	7 Pray for prayer meeting this evening at Church of the Lamb in Brazil.	8 Pray those struggling with addictions find deliverance in Christ.	9 Pray children in our church memorize & love God's word.	10 Pray kids who heard about Jesus in VBS last summer are growing in Christ.	11 Pray elders & deacons conduct themselves in a way that exalts God.
12 Pray many service members come to know the Lord through the witness of believers around them.	13 Pray for members of our church family in their daily workplaces.	14 Pray for good relationships within our families.	15 Pray radio stations in Brazil are broadcasting loud & clear.	16 Pray for open doors for Daniel & Krissy to share the gospel.	17 Pray for awareness of God in every moment of every day.	18 Pray young people will live true to God's word in all their choices.
19 Pray for wisdom in knowing when & how to shut out the world so you can hear God.	20 Pray for Joe/Denise & Mark in their ongoing work with missions overseas.	21 Ask God to give you wisdom & discernment in interactions today.	22 Pray for eyes open to see God's amazing answers to prayer.	23 Pray God helps parents release their kids to the Lord - completely.	24 Pray for young people who are not walking with the Lord.	25 Pray for Bible club this morning at Church of the Lamb in Brazil.
26 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.	27 Pray God's help in the constant changes we each face & don't like.	28 Pray God helps those in difficult marriages to stay the course.	29 Pray God comforts those hurting & broken.	30 Pray conversations at Café e Graca are life changing.	31 Pray God's light shines brightly in the darkness of this world, giving Him glory.	

Dear Family and Friends,

September 2025

The season of fall is upon us. The gardens are starting to die down and soon we will see God's spectacular changing colors of the leaves. We have so many reds here, where Nebraska had more yellow. We had a beautiful summer with rain to keep us green until just lately. Now our temperatures are high and we are needing rain. We are thankful for His protection from the bad storms that have been in our area.

As a Missionary Pastor called of the Lord, one of my assignments is to "Preach the Word and Feed the Flock." My congregations over the years have not usually been large, but His direction stays the same – "Preach the Word; Feed the Flock." I base this on 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 5:2-3. This sharing has been awesome and a fulfilling reward.

About a month ago, I launched my current series on being a true disciple for Jesus. I started with a single definition of a disciple and built on this Bible fact: A disciple is a born-again person who is both a learner and a follower of Jesus Christ. As a learner, we have a fantastic textbook, our BIBLE. It takes more than attending church service and reading the Bible. We need to have prayer (just talking to our Lord and Savior) and study of HIS Word. I'm thankful to have had many opportunities to learn in Bible college and seminary and personal study. I based my series on Matthew 4:19, "*follow me and I will make you fishers of men.*" They did leave their nets and followed Him. The results of being a Missionary Pastor are so rewarding.

We could not have done our Missionary Outreach without your help along the way, without your consistent prayer and financial support. We thank you. I had my annual physical checkup this month and he said I was in good shape. My hand is still not back to normal, but slowly and surely heading that direction. I keep busy in my spare time making the little wood cars to put in the shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. I have made over 300 of them. We try to keep you posted on our blessings.

Special prayer requests are for Connie's sister, Lorraine, who is looking for an independent living apartment to relocate in Omaha, Nebraska; for Connie's son-in-law, David, who will be having hip replacement surgery soon; for Jen, one of our supporters; also, several of our church family are in need of physical healing.

We look forward to hearing from you, about your family, and any needs and prayer requests that you have.

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Chuck and Connie Myers

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