

# INFO CENTRAL

A Publication of First Evangelical Free Church of Bismarck, ND

Nov. 25, 2008

## SENIOR PASTOR

"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING....." (Phil 4:6) The Scripture also says, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy (also translated as 'lovingkindness' – Hebrew word is 'Hesed') endures forever." Oh, I forgot to put the reference down for this verse. Well, actually, it is Psalm 106:1 and it is Psalm 107:1, and it is Psalm 118:1 and it is Psalm 136:1. Oh yes, and it is also Psalm 118:29. Oh and then there is Psalm 136:2 and Psalm 136:3 and Psalm 136:26 that are all very similar (just not exactly the same). I haven't checked for sure, but I think it is the most often "repeated" verse in the Bible. And then there is this famous verse: "...in everything, give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It is pretty evident how clearly and how forcefully the Lord directs us to "give thanks." I remember singing the old hymn, "Count Your Blessings" as a young boy. I tried to do just that – count them. I missed the point that the hymn isn't encouraging us to literally 'count' blessings but to identify them and then obey the Scripture to "give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His lovingkindness/mercy endures forever!" The chorus of the old hymn is: "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your many blessings, see what God has done. Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." It is impossible to be "ungrateful" and "grateful" at the same time. If we are focusing our hearts and minds on all the things that the Lord has given, IS GIVING to us and WHO HE IS and WHAT KIND OF GOD HE IS ("for the Lord is good") there won't be any room left in our mind or our heart for a grumpy, critical, complaining spirit that is so unattractive and uninviting. If you are looking for something to complain about and something about which to be unhappy, I guarantee you, Satan will help you be able to see everything around you that is ugly and wrong – and it is his desire for you to see your entire world in the dark and drab of depressing, critical thoughts. But if you want to honor the Glorious God who is GOOD and whose LOVINGKINDNESS ENDURES FOREVER, you will need to "count your blessings," "in everything give thanks" and "give thanks to the Lord" and then you will find yourself lost in "Hallelu-Jah" (Praise Yahweh). Thanksgiving is a wonderful thing isn't it? I wish you and yours an incredibly blessed and joyful THANKSGIVING experience this week. Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

I do so look forward to seeing you and celebrating the goodness of God this Sunday. And this is the first Sunday of advent so I happen to know that Barb is breaking out the Christmas music so we will begin to celebrate the goodness of God in sending His only begotten Son into the world. If you are traveling this week, please drive safely and return to us ready to worship and study God's Wonderful Word and fellowship together - D. V. (Deo Volente – God willing).

Maranatha

Pastor Terry Kern <<<

## NORTHERN PLAINS DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Darrell L. Bock is Research Professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary, as well as Professor of Spiritual Development and Culture.

He has written over twenty books ranging from full commentaries on Luke and Acts to specialized academic monographs about Jesus. He also has written opinion page pieces for numerous publications.

Darrell will speak on "Inerrancy; Either-/Or, Both-And, and the Difference between Precision and Sufficient Accuracy", "No Such Thing as First Century Orthodoxy? A Closer Look at Claims about other Gospels, Alternative Christianities and Constantine", and more. To sign up contact the Northern Plains District Office at 223-3007 the cost is \$45.00 per person. You will not want to miss this conference.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING @ FEFC

This Sunday, November 30, 2008 at 2:00 pm anyone who loves Christmas tree decorating is welcome to join us add a touch of Christmas to FEFC. We have six trees to set up and decorate. If you are willing to help it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathleen Jorgenson to let her know if you are planning on attending.

## GOLDADE BENEFIT

Friends, family and fellow church members are holding a benefit for Chad Goldade, a member of FEFC, on Sunday, December 14, 2008, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Eagles Club in Mandan. Activities for the day include a breakfast benefit, silent auction and bake sale. We encourage everyone to attend after church service. If you would like to make a donation to the Chad Goldade Benefit, please contact Pastor Kevin.

## AN OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS

The JOY Club and Senior Adults are invited to "An Old Fashion Christmas" at Bob and Lynn Schindler's home. So set aside Saturday December 13 starting at 5 pm for a dinner and singing Christmas carols by the piano and remembering the family Christmas traditions. You can sign up at the Information Center or contact Bob & Lynn Schindler by December 7, 2008.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all of you who donated and for those of you who purchased items at the first annual Holiday Hand Me Ups. During the year you may want to go through your holiday decorations and set them aside at home so that you can bring them next year for our Holiday Hand Me Up Sale.

## WHAT'S IN YOUR LIBRARY?

Check out the small white bookcase in the Library! Every couple of weeks, current library materials will be featured. Watch for the display of Christmas soon!

ALERT: Four books by Karen Kingsbury has been taken from the library without being checked out. They are very popular fiction books from three of her series: Redemption, Sunrise and 911 Series. If you read Karen Kingsbury novels, please check your home to see if you might have neglected to fill out the library card before taking the book home. Thank you for using our library!

Gayle

## EMAIL INFO CENTRAL

If you would like to start receiving Info Central via email please email Wendy Backman at wendy@firstefree.com.

*412 Ministries*

**PRIMETIME**

Sunday morning for Jr. High & Sr. High 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

**R.A.G.E.** Jr. High (7th & 8th grades)

**THE EXAMPLE** Sr. High (9th & 12th grades)

**C Life Merged with Campus Crusade**

Tuesdays for college students (18 - 20 something) at 8:00 p.m. at BSC in the Student Union.



**PRAYER CHAIN INFO**

Please call the Phone Prayer Chain Captains and e-mail your requests to Laurie Grosz at the e-mail address below to activate your prayer requests.

**EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN INFO**

[prayer@firstefree.com](mailto:prayer@firstefree.com)

**PHONE PRAYER CHAIN CAPTAINS INFO**

**DAYTIME :** Catherine Grosz

**EVENING :** Doris Ann Van Beek



**COOK'S NIGHT OFF**

Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 p.m.! Sign up at the Info Desk on Sunday or call Sandie at 223-3330.

\$2.00 per person with a \$10.00 per family maximum!

Dec. 3 - Chicken Stacky Upy, bread, vegetables, fruit & dessert

**WEEKLY EVENTS/MEETING INFO**

- THU - Nov. 27 Thanksgiving - Church Office
- FRI - Nov. 28 Joy Club @ Mc Donald's (by K-Mart); 9:30 am
- SUN - Nov. 30
  - Worship Service; 9:00 am
  - Adult Community/Sunday School; 9:00 am
  - Fellowship; 10:15 am
  - Worship Service; 10:45 am
  - Children's Church; 10:45 am
- MON - Dec. 1
  - Men's Study; 6:30 am
  - Fellowship & Caring Board; 7:00 pm
- TUE - Dec. 2
  - Women's Bible Study; 9:00 am
  - Women's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
  - Griefshare; 6:45 pm
  - C-Life College Ministry @ BSC; 8:00 pm
- WED - Dec. 3
  - MOPS; 9:00 am
  - Cook's Night Off; 5:00 pm
  - King's Kids Choir; 5:30 pm
  - All Church Prayer; 6:30 pm
  - Awana; 6:30 pm
  - 412 R.A.G.E. & The Example; 6:30 pm
  - Women's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
  - Men's Bible Study; 6:30 pm
  - Worship Team Rehearsal; 7:45 pm

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