

FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

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Faith Alliance Church
6670 Knoxville Ave.

New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-3688

Website: www.faith-alliance.org
Church Staff

Tom Sager, Senior Pastor
tom@faith-alliance.org

Trent Fledderjohann,
Senior Associate Pastor
trent@faith-alliance.org

James Lampert, Youth Pastor
james@faith-alliance.org

David Wray, Missions Pastor
dave@faith-alliance.org

Gina Tangeman, Children's Director
gina@faith-alliance.org

Kristin Lampert, Pre-School Director
kristin@faith-alliance.org

Marty Tangeman, Office Manager
marty@faith-alliance.org

Heidi Siebenaler, Care Coordinator
heidi@faith-alliance.org

WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

In the Alliance we summarize our theological distinctives with what we call "the Fourfold Gospel." This concept reminds us that Jesus is our Savior, our Sanctifier, our Healer, and our Coming King. Pastor Trent is preaching a monthly series on these four roles of Christ, with this week's emphasis on Christ as our Sanctifier.

We don't use the word "sanctify" as frequently as we used to. Some of you may not even know what the word means. In essence, to sanctify something means to set it apart for a special purpose. For example, the vessels used in the Old Testament temple were "sanctified" because they were used exclusively for the sacrificial system. You didn't cook your baked beans in a sanctified pan!

The Bible says that those of us who are followers of Christ are sanctified by the Holy Spirit. That is, the Spirit cleanses us of sin (purifies us) and then dedicates us to the special purpose of serving Christ. When we fully surrender our lives to Christ, our primary purpose in life becomes glorifying Jesus. Every decision is considered in light of the question, "Will this further God's purpose in my life and in the world?" If the answer to that question is no, the follower of Christ will reconsider that decision.

On this Valentine's Day, perhaps a relationship analogy would be helpful. If I am in a "committed" relationship, that means that I have chosen to focus my romantic affections on one person and only one person. I am set apart to love and care for my partner in a manner that is unlike any other relationship in my life. Because our relationship is exclusive, we might call it "sanctified."

When Christ sanctifies us through the Holy Spirit, we enter into a "committed" or "exclusive" relationship with Him. Our primary love is directed to Him. Our purpose is focused on Him. Our will is surrendered to Him. We devote ourselves to furthering His Kingdom and honoring His name.

The Christian life can never be just a sideline or interest. It must be the core of our identity. That means at all times and in all places we are aware that Jesus is Lord and we belong to Him. Just as you are faithful to your spouse at all times (whether he/she is present or absent), so we are faithful to Christ in every situation. We are continually aware that we have been set apart for the purpose of serving Christ.

This sanctified life grows out of a surrendered heart that asks Christ to mold and shape us according to what He wants to do in our lives. It's not a matter of

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From Pastor Tom's Desk...

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willpower – of trying really hard to be faithful to Christ. It's a matter of surrender – of acknowledging our need for Christ's transforming power and inviting Him to be at work within us.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

Turkey Trip Registration...

Once again this year we will be sending a mission team to Turkey to assist the Tea House ministry team during their annual retreat. Our team, led by Jodi Shimp, will staff a Vacation Bible School for the children of the missionaries, as well as interact with the team. Dates for this trip are June 15-23. Registration deadline is February 29. Please speak with Jodi, 419-733-9909, for more information.

Special Fund Closed...

Now that we have hired Pastor Trent and he is on salary, the elders have closed the donor-designated fund that they had set up for him. We are grateful for those who have supported Trent financially, and we invite you to transfer your giving to the General Fund, where it will be used to support Trent's salary.

Luncheon for New Attenders...

We will be offering our "Starting Point" luncheon on Sunday, February 28, following the second service. "Starting Point" is an informal lunch that provides information about our mission and program to persons who are relatively new to the church. You'll meet some new friends over lunch, and then each staff person will share the highlights of their ministry area. Please call the church office, 419-629-3688, to make a reservation. Kids and teens are welcome!



Current Prayer Concerns...

- Cierra Otting, now in Libreville, Gabon, for six months
- Stephanie Fledderjohann, Pastor Trent's wife, due to deliver this week
- Eileen Wessel, hospitalized this week
- Robin Holcomb, Lavonna Springer's mother, back in hospital with double pneumonia
- Jim Marshall, friend of Rich and Betty Plattner, congestive heart failure
- Mitchell Nutt, recovering from back surgery
- Erin Zimpfer, recovering from surgery
- Kathleen Keller, Erin Zimpfer's mother, recovering from stroke
- Bob Finke, Shelly's father, underwent heart cath this week
- Chris Bowers, undergoing chemotherapy
- Jay Berkey, awaiting consultation
- Brent Paulus, on-going illness
- John Schulze's niece, Megan, auto accident, recovering from surgery
- Mary Alice McDermitt's sister, Betty, cataract surgery
- Remember to pray for our partners on the mission field: Michelle Gruber, Harry and Kathy Walker, Kevin and Cami Zwart, Joel and Sheila Meyer, Kris Prenger, to name a few



Annual Report 2015 Available Soon...

This year's Annual Report asks ministry leaders to respond to one question: What have you been most excited about in your ministry this year? Reading these responses will encourage you in your faith as we celebrate what God has been doing among us. These reports will be available for pick up at the church beginning next Sunday, February 21.

Save the Date!

Do you like to scrapbook, make cards, spend time with others while crafting? We have an opportunity for you



while adding to Cierra Otting's mission fund! On March 19 we will be crafting in the Fellowship Hall. For \$20 you will get your own table, lunch, snacks, and pleasant company and fellowship. All monies are being donated to Cierra.

Mark your calendar now. Sponsored by HOPE Ministry. More info to come.

HOPE Ministry...

HOPE Ministry (Helping Other People Everyday) is a group working to be God's hands and feet by showing love to



members of our congregation and community by meeting needs brought to the group's attention through outreach opportunities. If

you are interested in being in such a group, please contact Shelly Finke or the church office. Our monthly meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Before our March 7 meeting, we plan to visit with the residents of St. Marys Living Center.

Financial Report

Offering February 7, 2016

General Fund: \$7,237

Local Mission: \$264

Great Commission: \$911

Care Fund: \$55

Building Fund: \$130

Love & Hope Envelopes: \$425

Cierra Otting Mission Trip: \$190

Julie Schwieterman Mission Trip: \$12

Tea House: \$43

District Ministries: \$25



Attendance

Week of February 7, 2016

9:00 Worship – 92

10:30 Worship – 141

Kids – 54 ; Adult Workers – 17

Youth Discipleship–6

Total Worship – 312

International Class – 12

Wednesday Night Live!

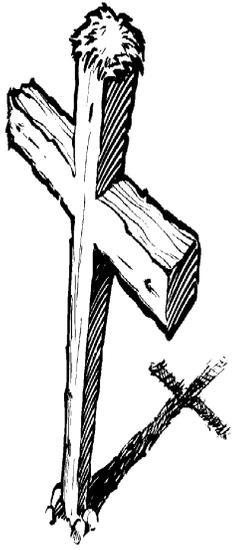
JOURNEY–30

CONNECT–8

Kids –30 ; Adult workers –8

Youth Group – 42 students; 2 adults

RENEW



COMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Today

- 9:00... Early Service
- 9:00... Discipleship Class
- 10:30... Late Service
- 10:30... Kids Church
- 11:00... Spaghetti Fundraiser

Feb. 19 ...Scene 75

Leave Yth Ctr @ 5 pm, Return @ 10 pm

Feb. 26 ...Dodgeball Fundraiser

Mar. 11-12 ...Youth Lock-In

Mar. 13 ...Pie Auction

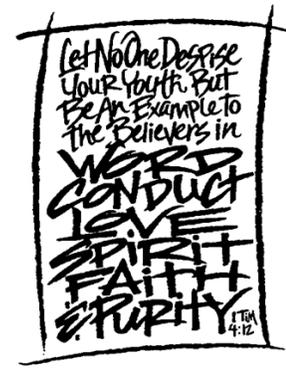
MINISTRIES



This Week

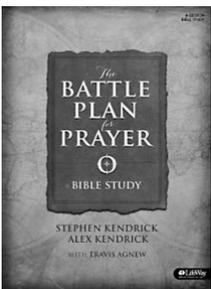
Wednesday...Youth Group...6-8:30 pm

Friday...Scene 75...5:00 –10:00 pm



8-Session Bible Study from Stephen and Alex Kendrick...

Develop a deeper walk with God as you seek the Lord for your battles first. *The Battle Plan for Prayer Bible Study* equips believers to create their own prayer strategy and be specific and strategic in prayer. This study features teaching by Alex and Stephen Kendrick on the topics of: what prayer is and is not, why God wants us to pray, specific areas of prayer, specific strategies for prayer, and more.



This Bible study will be offered on Thursday mornings at 9:30 at the home of Luan Louis, 310 Mill St., New Knoxville, beginning March 3. If you would like to join this study, please contact her at 419-230-4713, or Luan@nktelco.net, so she can order the workbooks. They will cost approximately \$14.00.

Staying Fed...

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103, NRSV).

Recently I was confronted with this question: If you fed yourself with food the way you feed yourself with God’s Word, would you still be alive? It gave me pause.

Do I eat *enough* spiritually? – feast regularly enough on Scripture to keep up my energy and health of my soul? Do I eat *nutritiously*? – take in a balanced meal of law and gospel, comfort and commandments, prophecy and promise? Do I pass up spiritual *junk food*? – set aside empty calories that lead to disease, in order to hunger for what truly gives life? Do I drink enough *Living Water* to avoid faith dehydration? And once in a while, do I *splurge on dessert*? – savor the sweetness and joy of belonging at God’s table?

What abundance God sets before us. May we never skip a “meal!”

—Heidi Mann