



August 2018

The Messenger

Reading the Bible Anew - Pastor Mike Mirakian

We love the Bible and don't make excuses for that. We believe in the life-transforming truth of God's word. We believe the stories told in the Bible are both real and meaningful. We read, study, teach, preach, pray, memorize and obey scripture, because we have found it beautiful, powerful and inspiring.

This fall we will put new action and commitment to our love of God's word with a Bible-reading program called *Immerse: Messiah*. The idea is simple: read through the entire New Testament together and meet during Sunday School each week this fall to discuss what we have read. I hope many of us, not just those who regularly attend Sunday School, will take up this challenge, and I believe that all who do will see their faith deepen.

Colleen Felts, John Loven and I will lead discussions each Sunday, and because we know God's word speaks to people of all ages, the Sunday School class will be for adults as well as youth.

Immerse was developed by Tyndale Publishing, using the New Living Translation. The books of the New Testament are arranged following themes rather than the traditional canonical order, and the words of scripture are printed without chapters and verses. Publishing the Bible in this format is intended to help focus readers on the words and flow of each book.

Too often, we treat the Bible like a reference manual, reading it in bits and pieces while ignoring the larger context and overarching themes. Reading an entire book, like one of the Gospels, in a single sitting helps us make connections between stories and recognize important theological ideas the author weaved into the narrative. In the same way, reading the entire New Testament in this fashion can help us grasp the whole story of Jesus and His followers.

Immerse also invites us to read the Bible in community. When we gather during Sunday School, our discussions will focus on four simple questions:

What stood out to you this week?

Was there anything confusing or troubling?

Did anything make you think differently about God?

How might this change the way we live?

Listening to and learning from other believers helps us understand and apply the words of scripture, often in ways we had not considered on our own. What stands out to you may have been missed by someone else, and in turn, you may discover new insights through what others share. By studying the Bible together, we help one another unpack the vast richness of God's word and allow the Spirit to carry its truth into our hearts in new ways.

Immerse has been used in many Covenant churches over the past two years, and I know several pastors who strongly recommend it. Some churches have even taken on reading the Old Testament in the same way.

We will make the *Immerse: Messiah* books available later in August, along with the reading schedule for the fall. Sunday School begins September 9, and we hope to see many people participate in this class. If you are not able to attend Sunday School, I hope you will still follow along with the reading schedule so the whole church can benefit from reading the New Testament together.

Family Outreach Event



Please join us on August 18th for a showing of **An American Tail** and an Ice Cream Sundae Bar. The movie begins at 6:00 pm followed by ice cream sundaes on the patio. This is a great event to invite your family and friends to, especially those with children. For more information, or to volunteer to help, please contact Kathi Engstrom (815-670-4803) or Paula Rasanen (815-519-2616).



Organic Outreach for Ordinary People - book review by Kathi Engstrom

I CAN DO IT is the catch phrase of Kevin Harney's book *Organic Outreach for Ordinary People*. Designed to be an encouraging, helpful tool for raising our evangelism temperature, it is an easy read full of easy to understand principles and activities that are doable by anyone.

The introduction explains what organic (authentic, natural), outreach (communicating our faith), and ordinary (you and me) mean. It is a guide for improving our outreach in an authentic, natural way.

The early chapters (1-5) explain how we can prepare ourselves for outreach.

The Law of Love - The starting point is not a system of evangelism or a program, but a heart deeply in love with God and people.

Becoming Grace Bearers - We must truly understand the grace of God before we can extend that grace to others.

Embracing the Bible and Truth - We must know what we believe and express it with confidence.

The One Degree Rule - We need to keep raising our evangelism temperature by one degree.

Everyone Plays - Evangelism is not a spectator sport.

The middle chapters (6-9) deal with how we can plant seeds of faith and water them.

The Unseen Work: Praying for People - We unleash heavenly power when we pray for the unbelievers we know.

The Wonder of Encounter: Praying with People - Unbelievers are more open to being prayed with than we think.

Intentional Living - People need to see Jesus reflected in our lives by the way we live.

Try Something - Spirit-appointed creativity opens evangelistic doors as we try many ways to scatter the seed of the gospel.

The Last Chapters (10-13) challenge us to bear kingdom fruit.

The Work of the Holy Spirit - We need to learn to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and act on them.

Engaging in Spiritual Conversations - Spiritual conversations do not have to be forced and uncomfortable. They can be a natural part of our daily lives.

Telling Your Story - We have many stories of God's power and presence in our lives to share.

Sharing Good News - There comes a time when we need to share the gospel in a clear and simple way.

Along with each chapter there are suggested activities we can easily do. Some of these include committing to pray for unchurched friends, finding ways to connect with unbelievers (we all need unbelievers in our lives), offering extravagant and undeserved acts of grace with no strings attached, asking God to open our eyes to the spiritual reality around us, being salty by living an attractive life, really listening to their story, being willing to change your schedule, writing your own story, practicing a gospel presentation, etc.

Organic Outreach for Ordinary People is an easy, but challenging, read that is full of ideas for improving our own spiritual lives and inspiring us to be more involved with the non-Christians in our lives. The outreach activities offered are simple and can be done by anyone. **I CAN DO IT** is indeed appropriate as these activities can be done by anyone.

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	6	7 8:30 Morning Prayer	8	9	10	11 3:30 Bamberger Junkans Wedding
12 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	13	14 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 LT Meeting	15	16	17	18  6:00 Family Outreach Event
19 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	20 Messenger news due in office	21 8:30 Morning Prayer	22	23	24	25
26 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	27	28 8:30 Morning Prayer	29	30	31	



Birthdays

- 2 Ethel Johnson
- 4 Jemma Roberts
- 8 Betty Klaung
- 8 Dave Lape
- 9 Mike Parlapiano
- 13 Eve Clark
- 13 Ken Yarwood
- 14 Wyone Leather
- 16 Ranee Jones
- 17 Cindy Beyerl
- 20 Maynard Carlson
- 22 Margo McCulloch
- Todd Cultra
- Geordan Jones
- 24 Doug Gibson
- 26 Jerry Jacobs
- 28 Mary Gibson
- Rich Nobel



Anniversaries

- 2 Toni & Ralph Cartwright
- Tom & Jeanine Heck
- 8 William & Linda Evans
- Patrick & Rachel McCulloch
- Jacob & Jamise Roberts
- 18 Bruce & Cindy Beyerl
- 19 Anders & Arlene Gredenius
- 23 Kent & Jean Drews
- 25 David & Kim Lape

Serving in August

Head Usher:

Jon Brown

Counters:

Jon Brown & Randy Price

Nursery Workers:

- 8/5 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 8/12 Laura & Randy Price
- 8/19 Stacey Parlapiano & Cathy Alexander
- 8/26 Beth Pasch & Barbara Rehnberg

Coffee Schedule:

- 8/5 Jean & Kent Drews
- 8/12 Keith & Kathy Holmertz
- 8/19 Kevin & Candice McCulloch
- 8/26 Dave & Kim Lape



Remember in Prayer

Dennis Norman, recovering from a stroke.

Judy LeGault, with health issues.

Colleen Felts and family in the passing of her mother, Connie Mikkelson

Peggy Frint recovering from surgery.

Change of Address

William Evans
Cherry Vale Place
1545 Temple Lane Apt. 136
Rockford, IL 61112

Thank You

Dear Friends, On behalf of our residents, we want to thank you for hosting our monthly birthday party at Fairhaven. As always, it was such a joyous event for our residents who are celebrating their birthdays and for others to celebrate with them. Many thanks for donating your time and talents to make such a joyful occasion happen.

Sincerely, Linda Schou

Office Manager/Administrative Office - FCRC

60 Plus

60 Plus does not meet in August. Our next lunch will be Wednesday, (closed on Tuesdays) September 19th at the Capri. Plan to join us at that time.

Mission Report

Fall is fast approaching and it is time to think about school starting again. This month please pray for **North Park University, North Park Seminary & Tim Sales with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.**

North Park University's core values from their website: **Christian**- They nurture faith, balancing commitment and freedom; **City-Centered**- They engage Chicago as a dynamic place of learning and service and **Inter-Cultural**- They embrace and value all people, celebrate global tapestry and support the reconciling mandate of the Christian Gospel.

North Park Seminary has been the seminary for the Evangelical Covenant Church for over 100 years. They offer 4 traditional degrees, 6 dual degree combinations with business and non-profit management and 8 graduate certificate programs.

Tim Sales/InterVarsity: Tim oversees several chapters of InterVarsity in Northern Illinois. "InterVarsity Christian fellowship is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty." They have 1025 chapters on 695 campuses. "They minister to students and faculty through small group Bible Studies, large group gatherings, leadership training, thoughtful discipleship, and life changing mission trips." Intervarsity is a great way for students to get to know other students especially for those who are new to college life.

Alaska Christian College:

Praise- The Taikuu Hall is 90% complete and 8 students graduated this spring.

Pray - for students who will be attending this fall.

Peter & Anna

Pray - For couple who will be teaching at their school and for their daughter who has several medical issues.

Hike for Life

The Pregnancy Care Center of Rockford is hosting this event on Sunday, September 15th at the Midway Village Walking Path. Pick up a registration form in the southeast lobby or go online to thepregnancycarecenter.org/events to sign up.



There will be live music, kids games & activities, refreshments, and fellowship!
YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP!

All Church Picnic

Our annual church picnic is set for Sunday, September 16th at Roland and Gladys Olson Swedish Heritage Park which is located at 7901 Harlem Rd., at noon or following the morning service. Take Perryville Rd. north to Harlem Rd., and turn east on Harlem. The park is across from Rock Cut State Park Pierce Lake entrance. You will see the pavilion and playground area right away.

There will be a sign up sheet available beginning Sunday, August 26th through Wednesday, September 12th located by the northeast entrance. Please indicate the number of people from your family who will be attending, or as always you can indicate on the communication card or call the church office. If you need a ride, we will be happy to find one for you. Meat, drinks and table service will be provided. A basket will be available for suggested donations. Kubb, bocce ball and horseshoes will be available to use. You are asked to bring a lawn chair or a blanket and a dish to pass. If your last name begins with A-N please bring a side dish or salad, and if your last name begins with O-Z bring a dessert. We look forward to seeing you there to share food and fellowship.

Please call Todd or Elena Cultra at 815-315-2025 with questions.



**August 2018
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Rockford, IL 61108

Senior Pastor - Mike Mirakian
Phone - (815)399-9296
Fax - (815)399-7860

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Chronic Disease Self Management Program

We have the opportunity to have a CDSMP program offered at Broadway Covenant in the fall. It is a series of six sessions designed by Stanford University to help people with chronic diseases self manage their health. Both men and women are included. Care givers are also included. We will start meeting on Mondays, September 17 from 1 PM to 3:30 PM. We can register twenty persons. Please consider this for yourself, friends or neighbors. The cost is free, and includes a book Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions, a 20 dollar value included at no additional cost. The overseeing agencies are Lifescape and NIAAA. We will be offering it to our neighbors if there are extra spaces. Please sign up on the church registration card, calling the church office, or calling myself at 815-222-3826. My co-teacher and I have taught several of these, and have had excellent responses. Please call me with any questions.
Looking forward to seeing you then, Colleen Felts.