



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

February 2019

“Is there just one way to the Pearly Gate?”

In regards to salvation, a question often asked is, “*Is it true there is only one Church?*” Most Christians in the Lord’s church would say, “*Yes!*” without hesitation. But Pope Benedict XVI also says the same, as do all the Popes before him and after him.

Pope Benedict again stated this publicly declaring all denominations as “*not true churches*”. The man is not blindly dogmatic, but states the Truth. However, he encases that Truth with a falsehood when he declares that the Catholic institution is that “*single Church of Christ*”.

For one to discover the “*one true Church of Christ*”, we have no other reliable option but the Bible. There is not a more reliable authority than the Scriptures, else we end up on the endless road of catechisms, councils, and commentaries, none of them Divinely inspired.

Twelve Apostles but One Truth

In 1 Corinthians 1:13 the question is asked, “*Is Christ divided?*” The answer is—No. Jesus Christ commanded unity amongst His believers.

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.

~ Matthew 12:25

He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

~ Luke 11:23

This presents quite a sad paradox. The Bible certainly preaches unity, yet our communities are populated with denominations that are utterly divided from each other. “*Agreed to disagree*” is a common way to put it.

But if just one of the denominations were to dare declare itself as the “*one true Church of Christ*”, then in the same breath, they would declare those they once called brethren, as heretics.

How can one explain and justify the existence of all the denominations purported to be Christian

churches? How can we intelligently and scripturally accept the different names, the contradicting doctrines, the multitude of catechisms and books that go along with the whole denominational package?

Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

~ Matthew 15:9 / Mark 7:7

“*We’re all on different paths heading towards the same place*” is another common explanation. But the whole essence of what we see in the New Testament casts a huge question mark on that statement, if not outright condemnation. Scripture and even pure reason make it evident that Jesus did not give His twelve Apostles twelve different religions, twelve different doctrines, twelve different paths to salvation. He gave them THE (one and only) path to salvation.

As Christ said,

“Broad is the way and wide is the gate that leadeth unto destruction and many there be which go in thereat.

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

~ Matthew 7:13-14

Know our Father in Heaven

Let’s pause here. And let’s dismiss the austerity and exclusiveness that “*one true church*” seems to portray to some. Is God not “*a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*” ?

And concerning sinners, did not this same God say, “*I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*”

~ Hebrews 8:12

The writer of Hebrews was quoting Jeremiah 31, when God was telling Israel of the “*New Covenant*” that was to come through Jesus Christ.

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts,

and in their minds will I write them. And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

~ Hebrews 8:16-17

Jesus portrayed a mirror image of the Father. His actions are the actions of God. And when the Apostles James and John wanted to “*call fire down from heaven*” upon a town that did not want to hear Jesus, His response was the same response they would have heard from God Himself:

But Jesus turned, and rebuked them, and said, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them”. And they went to another village.

~ Luke 9:55-56

And with our Father, every day is a new beginning—regardless of our failures the day before or even the years before. With God, I can always have a clean start.

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.

~ Lamentations 3:21-23

Noah and the “one true Church”

The Church can be understood as the New Testament equivalent to Noah’s Ark in many ways:

- All mankind is invited—but very few accept the invitation.
~ 2 Peter 2:5 / John 3:19
- Noah and his family were “saved by water”— Today “baptism doth also now save us”.
~ 1 Peter 3:20-21
- They went in the Ark and God shut them in. Today, the Lord adds to the Church “such as should be saved.”
~ Gen 7:16 / Acts 2:47
- As God’s word came to Noah as the only Authority and Guide to save mankind, so is the Bible in our day. There was only one Ark to save mankind, and today there is only one Church for the same purpose.
- . . . *once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us*
~ 1 Peter 3:20-21

Whether with the Ark of Noah or the Church of Christ we see in both cases that unless you’re in it—your eternity is dark.

Attempting to find God and salvation outside of the Scriptures is like one in Noah’s day trying to survive the Flood outside the Ark. It is vain to seek the Lord outside of the Scriptures.

One Body, One Church

See below how the Scriptures define the Church as the ‘*Body of Christ*’. Not a foreign statement to the ears of anyone who has heard of Christianity.

And [God] hath put all things under [Christ’s] feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is his Body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 1:22-23

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:18

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church:

Colossians 1:24

And then see how the Apostle states plainly . . .

There is ONE body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

How beautiful it is

It is so good and pleasant when brethren dwell together in unity doing God’s will. How beautiful it is when we yield our will to our merciful and gracious, forgiving and patient Father in Heaven.

Now I beseech you, brethren,

by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that

* *ye all speak the same thing, and that*

* *there be no divisions among you; but that*

* *ye be perfectly joined together*

* *in the same mind and*

* *in the same judgment.*

~ 1 Corinthians 1:10

Amen!



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

We have completed the sale of our building and will begin meeting in the Farm Bureau building in February.

The address is:

**811 S 4th Street
Chariton, IA 50049**

- If you are thinking of attending services with us we would recommend you contact one of the elders to make sure we will be having services that day.

- Albert Schreck has been having back problems that have been causing him to have quite a bit of pain. He is meeting with doctors to try and find the cause and to see what can be done to alleviate the pain.
- Lynn Faulkner and Teresa Groves were visitors this past month.

February Birthdays

- ★ 25 - John Wayne Smead

February Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Neal Warren has good days and bad days. He has had some blood pressure problems.
- Cathy James is having problems getting over bronchitis.
- Pam Climpson hasn't felt well in a while. Cards of encouragement may brighten her days. Her address is: 15066 Scotch Ridge Rd., Carlisle, IA 50047.
- Others ill: Shirley McNeece, Yvonne Coe, Don James, Travis Head, Linda Head, Debbie Wilkins, Peg Warren and John McNeece.
- Visitors: Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy Evans, Paxon Boozell, Brita Head & Charlie.

February Birthdays

- ★ 8 Johnie McNeece
- ★ 16 Bill McNeece
- ★ 25 Frances Hawthorne

February Anniversaries

- None

Fairview

February 2020

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- We extend our sympathy to Judy Madden in the loss of her only son Tad
- Quincey Madden. His celebration of life was held December 13,2019.
- January Visitors:
- Paul & Race Negley of Urbandale,IA
- John & Maddy Negley of Coralville,IA



February Birthdays

- ★ Tracy Head

February Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

February thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.

Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)

Website: Martensdalechurchofchrist.org

For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

The Spring Meeting 2020

Formerly hosted by the Dean Avenue Church of Christ, will be hosted by the Martensdale Church of Christ on March 28 & 29, 2020. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

<http://martensdalechurchofchrist.org/index.php/about-us/spring-meeting-2020>

- Wade Stanley — Saturday 7:00 PM and Sunday at the normal times shown above.

Traveling:

- Dick and Phyllis Bown traveled to Loan Jack Missouri to visit with family

Visitors:

- Jordan Bown
- Pam Deckler's cousin Kathy

- Andrew Hanson with children.
- Amelia Rogers visiting the Ingles
- Laura and Randy Tegtmeyer visiting Drew and Courtney and Millie.
- Several of us rang in the New Year at the home of Dave and Christy Henderson. We enjoyed good fellowship and good food.



February Birthdays

- ★ 18 Tiffiany George

February Anniversaries

- ★ Allen and Teresa Bown Feb. 9, 1985
- ★ Bill and Wendy Hounsom Feb. 20. 1996

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

February thru March: Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.

Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org

Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”*
~ Psalm 133:1
- Special thanks to a few of our future leaders (Josiah Pritchard, Kinnick Ingle, Gabriel and Shea Hermon) who were excellent helpers during Marc Hermon’s Sunday Jan. 5th lesson of a 15-minute overview of Acts!
- Thank you also to Jason Brady for organizing a pizza party for the congregation’s Sunday luncheon on Jan. 5th.
- Thanks to Dave and Joyce Ingle for opening their home to the congregation for fun and fellowship after Sunday services, Jan. 12, to watch a playoff football game!
- Due to extreme cold (feels like -10 wind chill), many of our older members decided not to travel for worship services on Sunday, Jan. 19th.

Visitors this month:

- Rebecca Pace & Joe Duckstein (grandchildren of & here to attend funeral of Bobbi Duckstein); and Stan & Kelly Wolfe!

Many in our congregation have been fighting sickness this month:

- Jed Wood (flu), Needham children (colds/cough), Lisa Williamson (sinus infection), Steve & Nancy Brady (ill), Suzanne Harvey (swollen legs, headache & irregular heartbeat), Steve Thompson Sr. (ill), Mark Flickinger (Max & Jack’s dad, Linda Garland’s son - heart attack but now home from hospital, entire Pritchard family (flu & strep throat), Randy Ingle (broken ribs due to work injury), Theresa Ingle (headache), Kinnick Ingle (flu), Niko Felice (ill), Dave Ingle (MRI results), Linda Garland (ill), Tammy Brady (ill), Max & Jack Flickinger (ill), Ryan Zinnel (exploratory knee surgery scheduled for Feb. 13), Needham family (stomach bug,

coughs & colds), Jim Thompson (Shirley’s brother failing quickly with Alzheimer’s), Kathy King (recovery from eye surgery), Steve Thompson’s nephew (in bad car accident in December, still in hospital with multiple injuries & surgeries).

- Continue to pray for a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery for Kelsey Wood (April) and Whitney Thorson (June).
- As well, petition our Lord for the many members who are escaping the winter season and spending time out-of-state this month.
- Shirley Warner’s mother, Ruth Thompson, passed away in January. Our sympathies go out to Shirley and Mike’s family during this sad time of earthly loss, but heaven’s gain!
- College Care Packages are being put together for Brandon Ingle, Nathan Williamson and Kayley Hermon. Please bring items by February 9.
- Save the Date! **A Sweetheart Dinner will be held at Toad Valley on February 14.** We are so grateful that our sister, Fred Brady, is willing to do this service of love for the brethren. (To help with food expenses, each adult will be \$10. Children under the age of 8 eat for free.) Please RSVP to Fred Brady.
- What a blessing to spend a Saturday morning with brothers and sisters in Christ! “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” 1 Peter 4:10.
Please pray for those who are physically hungry but even more so for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness! Several from our congregation gave at least a couple hours of their time for an opportunity of service for “Meals From the Heartland,” on Jan. 25. Thank you to Ryan Ingle for organizing this event.

- What a great kickoff evening for **Iowa Traveling Bible Study (ITBS)**, which was held Sat., Jan. 25. What a blessed evening of fellowship and Bible study for our youth. We are so excited 17 kids attended!!! Praise the Lord!

Alan led a wonderful study, "Say no to the world and YES to the Word!" Marc Hermon challenged the group with Bible quizzes in a fun game called, "Family Fellowship." After enjoying a meal, they played board games, ping pong, jenga, dodge ball, bean bag tosses, etc.! This is what being in God's kingdom is all about! The kids had a blast and while doing so they gained more Bible knowledge.

Nearly every kid anxiously asked when the next time would be that they could get together.

Save the Date! It's February 29 at the Klein's home.

More details will come soon!

- The next **Iowa Bible study with Wade Stanley** will be 6 p.m., February 29, at Nick and Kayley Hermon's townhouse in Indianola.



February Birthdays



Anniversaries



Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- **We held our annual New Years's Eve party** and enjoyed the usual games, food and fellowship. A highlight was when Mason Burkman and Morgan Dilley became engaged. Congratulations to this young couple!
- We were informed of the sudden death of Bob Guthrie, and we send our condolences to Tonya and her family.
- Our visitors were James and Shela Welte and family, Valerie Burkman, and Randy Ingle.
- We have been having lots of winter illnesses during the month.

February Birthdays

- ★ 2 Walter Daugherty
- ★ 8 Melda Ingle
- ★ 9 Bruce Fiorentin
- ★ 14 Rachael Henle
- ★ 16 Derek Ingle
- ★ 20 James Dowdy
- ★ 21 Laura Dowdy
- ★ 26 Amy Ingle
- ★ 27 Shelby Green
- ★ 28 Briana Heartsillr

February Anniversaries

- ★ 17 Brett & Lori Cole

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ: <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>
 (select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)