



From the Pastor's Perspective

This has been a bit of a whirlwind summer for me. Filling in for Pastor David has been a welcomed challenge and a blessing. Pivoting roles is an interesting experience and I have been grateful for the opportunity. As far as our preaching schedule, we will continue to look at "Life on the Vine" and think through how we can cultivate the remaining Fruit of the Spirit.

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches: "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house" (Matthew 5:15). Additionally, in the book of Revelation, churches are represented by lamps (Rev. 1:20). So, I don't think it is a stretch to say that our church should function as a lamp, a lamp that has been set up in a place called Forest Lake, MN. As a lamp, our job is to shine as brightly where we are planted. We here not shine as brightly within our own walls. No, we are here to shine brightly for all who might have eyes to see, not just for those who might be members.

The Bible tells us that we must shine, but it is less clear on how we ought to go about doing the shining. God has largely left the "how" up to the individual lamps. As we move into August, allow me to share with you a couple of the ways our church is looking to shine brightly in our community.

We continue our partnership with St. Andrew's Family Shelter that provides temporary housing for parents and kids who find themselves without a home.

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

Aug 1	10:30 am Grow group - Explore the Bible - Galatians Bible Study 12:00 pm - Sarah's Circle 4:00 pm YPA Rehearsals
Aug 2	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith 10:00 am YPA Rehearsals
Aug 3	9:00 am United Methodist Men
Aug 4	HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
Aug 5	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters 10:00 am YPA Rehearsals
Aug 6	4:00 pm YPA Rehearsals 6:30 pm Grow group - Not a Fan - Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus
Aug 7	10:00 am YPA Rehearsals 6:00 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Aug 8	1:00 pm UMW Meeting 4:00 pm YPA Dress Rehearsal 6:30 pm AMT Meeting
Aug 9	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith 1:00 pm YPA "Newsies" Show 7:00 pm YPA "Newsies" Show
Aug 10	3:00 pm YPA "Newsies" Show 5:45 pm Adult Fellowship Dinner 7:00 pm YPA "Newsies" Show

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

While located in Hugo, the shelter provides resources for families within the Forest Lake school district. Starting Sunday, August 18th, Forest Hills will be responsible for providing volunteer staffing for both the dinner shift and the overnight shift at the shelter. Participants help prepare food, pack lunches, provide supervision and overall serve the current roster of families. This time is also a chance to shine brightly. Speaking a kind word, listening to someone's story, and sharing about the hope we have in Jesus are worthwhile opportunities that allow us to shine.

We are also going to host an End of the Summer Bash on Aug. 28th! Grilled meat, carnival games, bouncy inflatables, and fun for the whole family! This is a get-together that we want to use to shine our light! We will need folks to sign up to volunteer and help serve at the event, but we also need everyone to get excited! Personal invitation is the best way to make this happen. A flyer in the mail or a poster in the entryway to Keys has much less persuasive power on a person than a warm invitation from someone they know. So let's be busy personally inviting people to end this summer with a bash!

Thanks for joining me on this journey!

For the King!

-Pastor Andrew



Calendar Cont....

Aug 11	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew 3:00 pm YPA "Newsies" Show and 20 year Celebration
Aug 12	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Aug 13	6:30 pm Grow group - Not a Fan - Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus
Aug 14	11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 6:00 pm Sanctify Rehearsal 6:30 pm Youth Fun & Fellowship
Aug 16	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith 5:00 pm Unload Community Care Truck
Aug 17	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care Dist.
Aug 18	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew 6:30 pm Lifeline St Andrew Shelter Week
Aug 19	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters 6:30 pm CMMT Meeting St Andrew Shelter Week
Aug 20	6:00 pm Sanctify Rehearsal St Andrew Shelter Week
Aug 23	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith St Andrew Shelter Week
Aug 24	St Andrew Shelter Week
Aug 25	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Cassi Betker 6:30 pm Lifeline - Bonsell Home
Aug 26	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Aug 28	5:00 pm END OF SUMMER BASH
Aug 30	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith



Worship's Word

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." - 1 Peter 5:8

Hello church! Here we are in August...can you believe it? Rev. Dr. David Werner and his family return next month from their renewal leave—quick!! Everyone clean up and act like we're all behaving! (KIDDING)

All joking aside, we have an action-packed month to end our summer coming up here at Forest Hills.

Worship-wise there will be a few of us leading this month. Pastor Andrew on August 4th and 25th, myself on August 18th, and Julie Berninghaus will be back to lead on August 11th! We will also be hearing from Cassi Betker again when she preaches for the second time this summer.

On August 28th, we will be celebrating (or mourning, depending on who you are) the end of Summer with our, you guessed it, End of Summer Bash! We'll be grilling out, playing games, giving out prizes, and listening to some great music. Check the newsletter or the event on our Facebook page for more details but I'll leave you with the most important thing we're going to have there besides free food: Bouncy House.

Need I say more??

This month, we'll be rolling out a new song called *Our God Reigns Here* by John Waller. *1 Peter 5:8 says that we must "be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." That is a troubling thought: the Devil is out to get us and is looking for a way to trip us up in our walk with Jesus. How are we supposed to defend against something/someone who is trying to give us a hard time?*

Our God Reigns Here is a song about spiritual warfare and how we can combat the leading and prodding of the Evil One. Here is a quick snippet from verse 2:

*Spirit of doubt you have no place here.
I command you to leave in Jesus' name.
Envy and jealousy you have no place here.
I command you to leave in Jesus' name.
Go back from whence you came.*

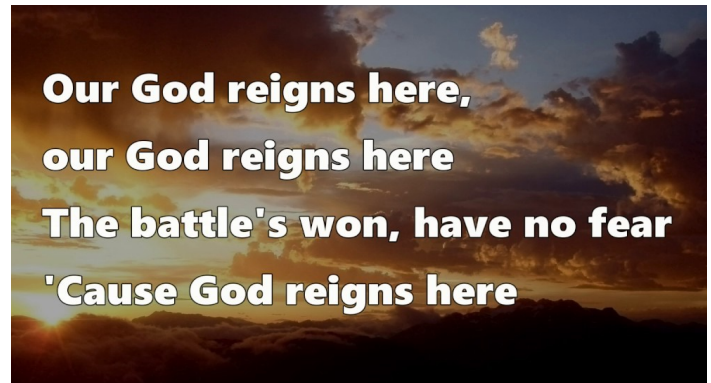
1 Peter 5:9 follows up by saying that we are to resist and stand firm in our faith. That is exactly what this new song is about: standing our ground and pushing out those subversive thoughts and feelings that take our focus away from what we should be honed in on- Jesus! In our lives, we will have moments of human weakness. Everyone does. We will feel doubt, envy, jealousy, anger, and depression. We will sin because of these feelings. The only person to walk this earth who didn't was Jesus- the Author and Perfecter of our faith. We are made strong in our weakness through Jesus.

Don't be afraid, be vigilant. It is absolutely within our ability to fight back and God has given us power over the Devil to do so. When we resist in Jesus' name, the Devil will flee from us.

Claim your ground in Jesus name!

Blessings,

Amanda Lucas



Forest Hills Youth Group



On July 13th, very early in the morning, 12 of us (7 teens and 5 adults) from Forest Hills flew up to Alaska for a seven-day mission trip. Once we landed we met with our team leaders, Dennis, Mary and Michelle from Praying Pelican Missions. They took us into Anchorage for a few hours to get some food and see the state. Some of us tried reindeer sausage, it was pretty good. Then we headed up to Wasilla, 45 minutes north west of Anchorage.

In Wasilla, we worked with four different mission groups; Church of the Nazarene, Thrifter's Rock, Frontline and Alaska Bible College. The group did miscellaneous projects for the church like painting rooms. Thrifter's Rock is similar a thrift shop where all

the profits goes to the local church. Our group helped them with pricing, cleaning and prepping donations.

Frontline was our main connection in Wasilla, they are similar to our Helping Hands. Each year they do a HUGE clothing give away. Our team sorted, folded and organized an entire gym full of clothes. Saturday, July 20th, they served over 1000 people with the clothes and school supplies, we helped prepare. We also helped paint, tore down cupboards and retile a few rooms for them. During the week Frontline does two free meals for the community, that we were able to be apart of. This gave us the opportunity to really get to know the people of Wasilla. We met numerous people that had part of their story in Minnesota. We also met people with broken hearts and lives depending on the services of Frontline. After the evening meal there was a worship service. The next day after the meal they had a food give away to get the people through the next week. The teens were able to help the people with shopping and carrying their groceries to their cars. I was so proud of their welcoming attitudes to all the people they met.

At the Alaska Bible College, we (or really Ann Klinner) did a lot of tiling. The group helped retiling two full bathrooms. We also tore down an old shed and did heavy landscaping so they could expand their parking lot. The President of the college, told us they had prayed the whole year for a mission team would choose Wasilla to partner with them for the work that needed to be done. He also reminded us that the work we did that week would have ripple effects as the students from that college went on to be pastors, missionaries, worship leaders for the Kingdom of God.

I was so proud of our group, Forest Hills servant heart shined through the whole week. We really have a great group of hard working and faithful people here at Forest Hills. I am proud that we were able to further Kingdom work in Alaska.



Cassi Betker
Director of Youth Ministries

Summer Worship and Pastoral Coverage Schedule:

Pastor Andrew will serve as the lead pastor for our church this summer. Others will be providing additional assistance. Feel free to connect with any of these ministers during the summer.

Sundays:

Aug. 4 Preaching: Pastor Andrew Bonsell; Leading Worship: Andrew

Aug. 11 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Julie Berninghaus

Aug. 18 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

Aug. 25 Preaching: Pastor Cassi Betker; Leading Worship: Andrew

Sept. 1 Preaching: Pastor Andrew; Leading Worship: Amanda Lucas

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Happy August Birthdays!

Jody KcKee	8/2
Bob Rosenbaum	8/3
Eden Bonsell	8/5
Donald Richardson	8/17
Florence Padrnos	8/20
Teresa Berg	8/20
Paulette Johnson	8/21
Arlene Fredrickson	8/30

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

