

# NEWSLETTER for MAY

**GRADUATION SUNDAY**  
for our graduating High School Seniors  
is Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
during the 8:15 AM & 11:00 AM Services



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The **2019 National Day of Prayer** observance is Thursday, May 2. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance set by the congress of the United States to be held on the first Thursday in May each year. The NDP exists to underscore the importance of prayer for the nation and its leaders. We as Americans pray for government, military, churches, schools, media, family and other areas and are all encouraged to pray for God's blessings on His people and this nation. Without God, nations and people are lost.

The Hastings Area Men of Promise invites everyone to an evening of prayer, music, and encouragement. Join us May 2 at the C3 Convention Center in Hastings at 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:00).

## AWANA APPRECIATION NIGHT

Our AWANA Leader Appreciation Dinner is Wednesday, May 1, at 6:30. AWANA workers and their spouse (or a friend) are invited to join us.

If you haven't already RSVP'd, please do so today by calling/texting Mary Hansen (402-461-1582) or Kristy Stoeger (402-984-2975).

## SUMMER SUNDAY ELECTIVES

In order to give our adult Sunday School leaders a reprieve in teaching, we will be offering several different Adult Bible Fellowship electives. They will comprise of two 6-week sessions: Session I – June 2, 9, 16, 23, July 7, 14; Session II – July 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25. We are planning on 4 classes per session. Watch for details!

## LIGHTING PROJECT



We recently announced plans for a Lighting Project for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. We have accepted a bid for just under \$42K to redo the lighting in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and the stage. Families who desire to give toward this project should designate your gift 'Lighting Project'.

We will discuss this project more at our April 28 Business Meeting.

## **YOU ARE CHANGING LIVES!**

Thank you for packing shoeboxes with Operation Christmas Child! God is transforming the lives of children across the globe through this area of Nebraska. We want to invite you to a special event May 16 to showcase the impact you are making through Operation Christmas Child and how God is at work right here to build a team in Central Nebraska to be active in the Great Commission! We can't wait to see you!!

Operation Christmas Child Impact Night  
Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM

Grand Island E-Free Church at 2609 S. Blaine Street, Room 106

Here's what you can look forward to Thursday, May 16:

That night, you will meet your Operation Christmas Child Area Coordinator – Kaylene Hoeser! You will hear stories and see the difference you are making through packing shoebox gifts. You'll also meet others who have a passion to see the Gospel proclaimed around the world. Come hear how you can use your gifts and abilities to impact the life of a child! Please invite others you know who pack shoeboxes and love this ministry! RSVP by responding to this email, or call Kaylene at (308) 379-6004. If you cannot attend or would like to learn more about OCC and opportunities to serve in Central Nebraska, OCC leaders will be available during the day May 16 at Panera Bread, 1040 Allen Dr., Grand Island. Call Kaylene at (308) 379-6004 to see up a time to meet.





**JAMPAC** is a full week of MUSIC, ACTING, CHOREOGRAPHY, SET DESIGN, and loads of fun putting together a children's musical production.

**JAMPAC : Hastings**  
**JUNE 24 – 28, 2019 8:30AM – 12noon**

Grades 1-8 (Fall 2018) - no experience necessary  
 "Understudies" camp for 4 and 5 year olds  
 Techies/Stage Hands division for 6-8 grades (limited to 10 spots)

Auditions for acting roles and singing solos: Sunday, June 2  
 [An electronic sign-up sheet will be available closer to the audition date]

Performance of *Danny & the Shacks* musical: Friday evening, June 28 at 7PM

Registration Schedule:

Payment/Registration Date	First Child	Additional Siblings
Before May 15	\$35	\$25
Before June 15	\$45	\$35
After June 15	\$55	\$45

\*scholarships available upon request



**One** car accident victim can use as many as **100 units** of blood.

We will hold a Blood Drive in the EFree Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 PM-6:00 PM. To make an appointment, please contact the office at 402-463-1441 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter code: *efree hastings*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30 AWANA Worker Appreciation Night 6:30 Youth Group	2 <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>  6:30 NDP Event at C3 Convention Center	3	4 7:00 AM Mens Group 7:00 Cel. Rec.
5 8:15/11:00 AM Worship w/Graduate Recognition 9:45 AM SS/ABF 11:00 AM Not Alone 12:15 Cont.Issues ABF Potluck 1:00 Hisp.Worship/Bible St. 6:30 Young Adult St.	6 6:30 Celebrate Rec. Ladies Step Study 8:00 Men's Group	7 6:30 AM Mens Gr.	8 6:30 Youth Group	9	10	11 7:00 AM Mens Group 7:00 Cel. Rec.
12 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:15/11:00 AM Worship w/Communion 9:45 AM SS/ABF 1:00 Hisp.Worship/Bible St. 6:30 Young Adult St.	13 6:30 Celebrate Rec. Ladies Step Study 7:00 Woven Wm Ldr. 8:00 Men's Group	14 6:30 AM Mens Gr. 5:30 Elder Board	15 6:30 Youth Group Special Activity	16 6:30 YFC Board mtg.	17	18 <b>ARMED FORCES DAY</b> 7:00 AM Mens Group 7:00 Cel. Rec.
19 8:15/11:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM SS/ABF 11:00 AM Not Alone 1:00 Hisp.Worship/Bible St.	20 6:30 Celebrate Rec. Ladies Step Study 8:00 Men's Group	21 6:30 AM Mens Gr. 5:30 Health/Wellness 7:00 Property	22	23	24	25 7:00 AM Mens Group 7:00 Cel. Rec.
26 8:15 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 Hisp.Worship/Bible St. 6:30 Young Adult St.	27 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  Office closed	28 6:30 AM Mens Gr.	29	30 <b>12-6 RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE here</b>	31	

### OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

*Brady Brohl, son of Ben & Sarah Brohl*  
*Andrew Carey, son of Jason & Jennifer Carey*  
*Brant Collingham, son of Greg & Tara Collingham*  
*Trevor Cumpston, son of Josh & Allene Cumpston*  
*Abby DeWitt, daughter of Scott & Danielle DeWitt*  
*Madison Douglas, granddaughter of Tom & Sharon Johnson*  
*Emma Ellerbee, daughter of Jeff & Kate Portenier*  
*Michaela Frederick, daughter of Kenn & Angi Frederick*  
*Chayce Hepner, son of Dave & Connie Hepner*  
*Karis Huyser, daughter of Nathan & Shalene Huyser*  
*Jayden Jorgensen, son of Mark & Lanis Jorgensen*  
*Devoney Keeler, daughter of Jeff & Lori Keeler*  
*Hope Kohmetscher, daughter of Marc & Beth Kohmetscher*

*Thomas Moller, son of Brett & Julie Moller*  
*Logan Nordby, son of Shawn & Monica Nordby*  
*Cassie Perry, friend of Madison Douglas*  
*Cameron Rodgers, brother of Sandy (Ryan) Burns*  
*Trey Samples, son of Ron & Cheryl Samples*  
*Noah Sass, son of Matt & Patti Sass*  
*Elizabeth Small, granddaughter of Darla Knight*  
*Hailee Stark, daughter of Brad & Hollie Stark*  
*Alex Stoeger, son of Louis & Kristy Stoeger*  
*Jared Switzer, son of Eric & Tiffany Switzer*

*\*If we've missed you on this list, contact the church office.*

## Serving God & Others

by A. Hudson

Have you ever taken a spiritual gift test? If you have, did you learn anything surprising about yourself? It's been a few years since I've last taken one, but there were a few outliers on my test that caught my attention—both in my lacking in some areas and higher results in others than I expected, causing me to challenge myself to be more well-rounded and to lean into the areas that I seem to have gifting.

Exhortation was revealed as an area that I apparently needed to work on. Not sure if you can score negative numbers on the test, but exhortation was *really* low for me. Consciously, I've been working on encouraging people around me, and now as a leader of people, I have worked really hard to help people as they are growing and maturing, rather than expect perfection from the beginning. Another area that I was surprised by is service, which appears to be my strongest spiritual gift. Serving people never felt like a gift to me, just a way of life. It's never been a chore, a hindrance, or something I consciously attempted. I love to come alongside others, assess what's going on, and lend a hand where I can.



The next signpost we're walking through on the Discipleship Pathway is Serving God & Others. Through the *Transformational Discipleship* research that was conducted, 60 percent of believers agreed with the statement, "I regularly find myself meeting a need without being asked." Pushed further, only 19 percent of believers strongly agreed that "I am intentionally putting my spiritual gift(s) to use serving God and others." Maturing believers consistently and thoughtfully sought ways to put their giftings to use to further the kingdom and gospel.

Have you ever been on a team where you used your giftings to further the group toward a common goal? Where you had a singular mission? That all of you were moving in step with each other toward a common goal? In which everything seemed to work so flawlessly and effortlessly? This is what championship teams and dynasties are built upon—a firm belief that everyone sacrifices his or her individual goals and achievements for the goal of the larger team. What would happen if we, as Christians, had this mindset? What would happen if we all treated serving God and others with humility and earnest action?

What is more important is that you are using any and all of your gifts to serve God and others around you. If you have the gift of hospitality, how might you use that to serve God and those nearest you? If you have the gift of leadership, or teaching, or administration, how can you lean into those and use them to serve God and others? Regardless of what a test might say, or what others around you affirm to be your gifts, use them for God's glory. Go out of your way to do what is natural for you. Serve God & Others.

Taken from <https://blog.lifeway.com/biblestudiesforlife/serving-god-others/>

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Scott DeWitt, Senior Pastor  
Matt Sass, Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries  
Nathan Huyser, Children's Ministries/Worship Director  
Amanda Teel, Student Ministries Director  
Edith Wheeler, Office Manager  
Audrey Mars, Receptionist  
Sanny Munnell, Bookkeeper  
Steve Atwater, Janitor  
Kristy Stoeger, Children's Ministries Assistant  
Makenzie Sommerfeld, Computer Technician