

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun Prairie

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With the advent of digital streaming and social media, the church has become more effective at introducing unchurched people to the local church. I have had many new attenders tell me that they did a google search for churches in our area and they watched services on-line before ever attending Sun Prairie. Yet, it remains that the most effective outreach tool for any church in any community is an invitation from a kind person who is obviously happy with the church they attend. Church growth researchers have discovered that a personal invitation to church is 23 times more effective than "cold calling" or advertising to generate a "first awareness" of a congregation. Personal invitations from regular attenders are at least 6 times more effective than the pastor inviting them and at least 17 times more effective than all forms of advertising.

When was the last time you invited someone to church?

What that visitor experiences once they walk through the door is just as important as the invitation. For someone to return to our church after that first visit, a couple of things need to happen. Research shows that people will not return to church if the sermon was bad. Good preaching is the first prerequisite for a visitor to consider a second visit to a church. So, that's on me! Secondly, people will not return to church if they are not shown hospitality. Friendliness from people in the church is a close second determiner of people making a return visit to a local church. It begins with the ushers, then the Sunday school and nursery workers, then the leaders of the church. And when a teen in the church engages a visitor....that's next level! But friendliness is only part of it. The real magnet is hospitality. Hospitality goes beyond that initial greeting, it involves letting a newcomer know that they are welcome and wanted. Hospitality says, "Will you join me for dinner?" Hospitality says, "Would you like to join me for Bible study?" Hospitality is more than inviting a person to church and acknowledging their visit, it goes to the next level of inviting them into our personal spaces.

When was the last time you invited someone to join you for a meal?

It could be in your home, or it could be an invite to a restaurant. Enjoying a meal together means that you wish to get to know that person. This is hospitality! This is what the New Testament church was built on and it's what people in our modern context need from the local church. A good church service is important. A good children's program is helpful. But hospitality is the key to effective church growth.

Pastor Mark

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2

Back Home Sunday. September 13th at 9:30 am

Summer Re-cap. Promotions to new classes, presentations of Bibles, introductions of Wednesday night and Sunday School teachers followed by coffee, juice and rolls. Worship at 10:30 with Ivan Veldhuizen from Converge International preaching

September

Saturdays at 7:00 am
Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Sundays
9:30 am: Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am: Worship

Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 pm
Deacon Board Meeting

Back Home Sunday September 13th
9:30 am: Summer Recap, Promotions, Bibles, Coffee and Rolls
10:30 am: Worship (Children's Church begins)

Wednesdays beginning September 16th
9:30 am: Women's Bible Study
6:00-6:30 pm: Supper
6:45 pm: Adventure Club
7:00 pm: MS & HS Youth Group, Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Sunday September 20th
Fall Sunday School begins for ALL ages at 9:30
(9:30-9:45 Children age K-5th practice for Christmas)
10:30 am: Worship

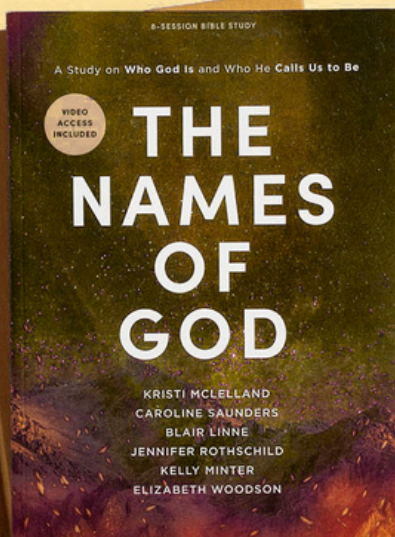
September 24th & 25th
Converge Heartland Cultivate Conference
at Faith Baptist in Sioux Falls

Happy Birthday

1 Corbin Buus
2 Maggie Kaufmann
3 Tyler Cadwallader
5 April Flannery
5 Kaleb Blanton
5 Elijah Coffey
6 Colton Buus
8 Micah Waldner
13 Collette Carlson
14 Andrew Sabers
16 Abby Palmquist
16 Jackie Garcia
17 Sandi Rabenhorst
19 Darla Erikson
21 Georgie Kolbeck
22 Jeremy McGregor
27 Averie Englebrecht
27 Mike Weaver
27 Robyn Koch
28 Ken Patrick
28 Kenny Blanton
28 Kitty Garcia
30 Brayden Wobig
30 Owen Schwader



3 Jerry & Sheryl Larsen
8 Don & Collette Carlson
11 Chuck & Heather Poulson
12 Zach & Maggie Anderson
13 Jon & Kyrsten Aus
14 Marshall & Holly Hansen
20 Alan & Deb Waldner
22 Colton & Maria Buus



Join us for
this 8-session
Bible study!

Wednesdays beginning
on September 16
at 9:30 am & 7:00 pm

Childcare is provided in
the evening



In this Bible study, teachers Kristi McLelland, Caroline Saunders, Blair Linne, Jennifer Rothschild, Kelly Minter, and Elizabeth Woodson will walk you through the pages of Scripture. Together, you'll examine names for the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and you'll discover the impact each of God's names has on your relationship with Him. Each name you encounter will inspire you to worship God for who He is and challenge you to consider how your life can be transformed in light of His character.