

Redeemer Community Launch Team Send-Off



On October 13, members from Crosspoint Church (Eureka), Community Bible Fellowship (El Paso) and Christ CC joined one another at Christ CC to give an update on the church plant and to receive prayer as they went on the following week to hold their first-ever worship service at Fieldcrest High School on October 20th (Photo of service below).

First-Ever Gathering of Redeemer Community Church

Taken from weekly email update by Pastor Erik Johnson

It was beautiful. [Redeemer's first church service on 10/20/19] Not because the turnout was great (even though it was), not because the set-up and tear-down went smoothly (even though it did), not because friends and family and people from the three partnering churches came to support us (even though they did), not because the majority of the people that were there were people from Minonk and the Fieldcrest School District (even though they were), not because there was unity among the launch team coupled with an openness toward others and a welcoming attitude from start to finish (even though there was), and not because the weather was perfect (even though it was).

But because we got to gather as a new local body of Christ and do what we've been longing to do together - read, sing, pray and preach Jesus, and remind one another of the grace we have in him.

We got to behold tangibly the work that God has been doing internally in the lives of so many people leading up to this point. It was amazing. And we're just getting started.

Yesterday didn't feel like an event (because it wasn't). It felt like church (because it was).

This will be my last weekly update. I can't thank God enough for the countless hours



of prayer that you have collectively prayed for this work over the last year since this email update began. Yesterday we bore some great fruit from it. But you and I both know that just because the church has started, that doesn't mean the prayer can stop. So, here are four ways you can stay updated from here on out so you can continue to pray:

1. I will be starting a monthly email update in November similar in format to this one. [Email Erik to subscribe to monthly updates: erik@redeemerminonk.com].
2. Bookmark our website: www.redeemerminonk.com. It will grow as we grow. So check it out every once in a while. I'll be uploading the audio of yesterday's sermon message later this week.
3. Follow us on Facebook to see pictures and upcoming events/news. We're working on getting the FB page up and running sometime this week, so if you don't see it when you click the link, keep checking periodically.

Now go, take the gospel to the people that God has placed in your lives. You are Christ's ambassador. His love is compelling you toward them. You can't *not* do it!

**Team from Christ CC
who have committed to attending
Redeemer Community Church in Minonk:**

- Dee & Denny Foor
- Guy, Carie & Gracie Schultz
- Cody & Marli Lindsay
- Dee Kitchell
- Derek & Abigail Hodel
- Joel & Kim Tarmann

Please continue to pray for the launch team and the Sunday gathering of believers Redeemer Community in Minonk as they meet to sing, pray and open God's word together!

Sunday Worship
Morning Worship 9am
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 am
Communion served 4th Sunday

Children's Ministries
J.A.M. (ages 3-PreK) every Sunday
K-4th Church; 1st & 3rd Sundays

Wednesday Youth Groups
5:30-7:30pm Jr. High, Zack Puck
7-9pm Sr. High, Jordan McKinsey

Pastoral Staff
Andy Huetten, Sr. Pastor
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF GRIDLEY

THE OUTPOST
November 2019 Issue

Dear Christ CC Family,

Recently, I was contacted by the *El Paso Journal* with the simple question: "What is your church's stance on video gaming (gambling)?" The *Journal* had recently run a few articles about local gambling, city ordinances regarding gaming, and some pro/con articles about the topic. Though our church doesn't have an official stance in our statement of faith on gambling, I replied to the editor with some bulleted thoughts that would guide the way I would preach and teach about the topic from the pulpit. Given that video gambling is now so prevalent in Illinois, I thought it might be helpful for believers in our church to think about it from a biblical lens. With only a few minor edits, my reply was as follows:

1) Stewardship

The Bible is pretty clear that God owns everything and entrusts us with being stewards of our possessions. We are to use what he's entrusted us with to glorify him through providing for our own basic needs, loving our neighbors generously, supporting the cause of sharing the gospel around the world, and enjoying his creation through moderate living. While I would not say it's a sin every time you put a dollar in a machine to play a game, I cannot see how gambling is a good stewardship practice. That said, the way believers spend money in all areas of life must also equally be subjected to the call of good stewardship.

2) Character

Proverbs teaches that wealth received hastily or through corrupt means tends to corrupt us (Pr. 13:11-13). That is, we form in godly character when we work for what we earn. Gambling tends to short-circuit the character development process God intends as we work and earn, which then typically leads to poor stewardship.

3) Wisdom

Some moral issues are clear right vs. wrong (i.e. murder, adultery, stealing). Others are wise vs. unwise. Gambling sometimes falls into this camp of wise vs. unwise. Not only is it poor stewardship, it's a very addicting activity. Though some minor gambling *may* be permissible, it certainly does not seem to be a wise way to live.

4) Preying on the Poor

Societally speaking, the research is clear that video gambling and lotteries tend to prey off the poor. Those who cannot afford it, are those who tend to participate. It's the duty of governmental leaders to lead in a way that advances human flourishing, and I cannot see how widespread access

"What is your church's stance on video gaming (gambling)?"

to video gaming helps those in need to avoid the snare of temptation or how it leads to their flourishing. It's especially grievous to me that fiscal irresponsibility on the part of state governments is often the hidden causal force behind this "fix" of earning income for municipalities through gambling income. In reality, the "fix" creates more problems than it solves and would have been better off if the government didn't spend more money than they had in the first place.

5) What's Right With It?

Some Christians live with a "negative morality lens"—that is, they ask the question "What's wrong with it?" I think followers of Christ should be asking a better question. Namely, "What's right with it?" How does this activity glorify God, love my neighbor, and lead to my joy in the Lord? I don't see what good, right, and God-glorifying activity comes from gambling.

6) Redeem the Time

Of equal concern to stewarding money, Scripture calls us to steward our time. The wise person numbers his/her days (Ps. 90:10) and "redeems the time" (Eph. 4). Spending hours each week mindlessly tapping a video gambling screen is poor usage of time. Though, let all who condemn video gaming as a waste of time take the log out of our own eyes and evaluate our own screen-staring trance of Netflix and the hours we tap a screen on our phones.

So, in sum, I think that it's unwise and poor stewardship for followers of Jesus to gamble. When this life is over, I don't want to have put the hours and dollars God entrusted to me into a lifeless machine, but into helping others know the joy of Christ. There are many other ways that I and other believers squander time and money and this exercise of considering video gaming in our community is a stimulus to submit our whole lives more zealously and fully as stewards of God's gifts.

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WEEKLY
EVENTS

- MON

Morning Workouts
5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

Boyz to Men
Every week, 6-7am
Conference Room
John Dirks
dirks.family@reagan.com
- WED

Morning Workouts
5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

MOM's Group
1st/3rd, 9-10:30am
Childcare provided.
Can always use more
childcare workers.
Susan Laiming
susan.laiming@yahoo.com

**Men's Group:
Revealing Christ
Through Revelation**
2nd/4th, 6:30pm
Conference Room
Men's group going through the book
of Revelation.
Tim Johnson
tpj.ccc@gmail.com

Evening Women's Group
Studying the book of James
Every other, 6:30pm
Conference Room
Debbie Meiss
ddmeiss@gridcom.net

Jr. High Youth Group
Every week, 5:30-7:30pm
Fellowship Hall & Family Center
Zack Puck
zepuck@gmail.com

Sr. High Youth Group
Every week, 7-9pm
Fellowship Hall & Family Center
Jordan McKinsey
jmac213108@gmail.com
- THURS

Gridley Food Pantry
Every week, 12:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Maralon Stauter, Director
(309) 747-2222
- FRI

Morning Workouts
5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

MONTHLY CALENDAR
/ NOVEMBER

- 03

Monthly Prayer Meeting
Sanctuary, 7pm
Our monthly prayer meetings are a time when the church
body can come and worship together as well as pray about
specific events going on at Christ CC. Everyone is invited!
- 10

Orphan Sunday Coffee Sales
During Coffee Fellowship
There will be a table setup to raise awareness and funds
for Lifesong. We will be selling Gobena Coffee at in the
Fellowship Hall on November 10 during Coffee Fellow-
ship. All the proceeds will go to LifeSong for Orphans.
More information about LifeSong and Christ CC's Adop-
tion Fund will be distributed with the November 10th bul-
- 10

One Another Meals
5-7pm, various homes throughout community
Once a quarter we have our One Another Meals.
Childcare is available in the Family Center from 4:45-
7:30pm. Contact Denise Benedict for more information,
benedict@gridcom.net.
- 24

Thanksgiving Meal
A Thanksgiving meal will be served in the Family Center
following the service. Extended family and guests are
welcome! Sign ups will be during Coffee Fellowship to
bring food. JAM will have class as usual, but there will
be **no Sunday School**. If you have any questions please
contact Jennifer Morrison at jmorrison@gcsgators.org.

MONTHLY CALENDAR
/ DECEMBER

- 08
&
15

Sr. High Post Office
Our Sr. High Youth Group operates the Christmas "post
office" on December 8 & 15. Drop off your Christmas
cards for Christ Community families and the Youth Group
will sort them and distribute them in the Family Center
during Coffee Fellowship.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

- 07

JAM & Children's Church at Christkindl Market
Details about the children's events will be released at a
later date. If you have any questions about the Christ-
mas Specials please contact Becky Roth at beckyroth@christ-cc.org.
- 08

JAM & Children's Church at Meadows
Details about the children's events will be released at a
later date. If you have any questions about the Christ-
mas Specials please contact Becky Roth at beckyroth@christ-cc.org.
- 15

Children's Church Christmas Program
During the 9am worship service
- 24

Christmas Eve Service
Sanctuary, 7pm

O Come All Ye Faithful

Whether you can carry a tune or not, we'd love to have you join us in choir this season. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, December 4th and will be held in the Gridley sanctuary at 6:45pm. Practices will generally last 90 minutes. Subsequent rehearsals will also be held on Wednesday evenings. Greg Allen will be directing with Pam Neal accompanying.

The choir will sing in the 9:00am Gridley worship service on Sunday, December 22nd and

December Rehearsals

- Wed 12/4 6:45pm
Wed 12/11 6:45pm
Wed 12/18 6:45pm
Sun 12/22 8:00am
Tues 12/24 6:00pm
Christmas Eve Service

December Performances

- Sun 12/22 9:00am
Tues 12/24 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Service



Perspectives on World Missions

Perspectives is a 16-week study on God's heart for the nations. Each week a new teacher—a missionary, pastor or professor—teaches the class on the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic pieces of missions.

Christ Community highly values the content and teaching found in a Perspectives class. Many enter the class with a missions-minded heart but skeptical that their perspective will change. But the class is aptly named. Nearly all (if not all), complete the class with a new and deeper understanding (perspective) of missions.

If you are interested in missions, serving in a leadership position or involved in any way at Christ Community, we urge you to enroll in Perspectives to learn more about our core value of Beautiful Feet.

The Missions team will pay half of your registration cost. There are family discounts available. If you have questions, please see Pastors Andy Huette or Grant Stauter.

Our God is a missionary God who tells us that there will be, "a great multitude that no-one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Rev 7:9. As Christians we are invited into the story of salvation for people from all over the planet. This course helps us learn our role in God's plan to redeem the nations. Go to <https://class.perspectives.org/FindAClass.aspx> and sign up today.

Available Discounts for Perspectives Class

Early Bird Discount of \$50: Register and pay in full before the expiration date to receive this automatic discount. Discount expires on 11/28/2019.

Family Member Discount of \$50: When one family member pays full price the second family member in the same household may claim this discount. If you share a set of text books, you may also claim the book discount. Discount Code "SYSFAMDIS_1".

Book Discount of \$30: If you already own the 4th edition Reader and Study Guide, or if you will purchase the Kindle version of the combined Reader and Study Guide, you may take this discount. Discount Code "SYSBOOKDIS_1".

Student Discount of \$50: Full-time students currently enrolled in college may claim this discount. Discount Code "SYSSTUDIS_1."

What You Need to Know:

What is it?

A 16-week class on God's heart for then nations.

Where is it?

Bloomington - Charis Church, 1306 E Empire St.
Gridley - Gridley Apostolic Church, 321 E 7th St.

When is it?

Bloomington Class
Begins Monday, January 13
6:30pm - 9:00pm

Gridley Class
Begins Tuesday, January 14
6:30pm - 9:00pm

How much is it?

\$275 per person with discounts available.
Christ CC's Missions team is offering half price scholarships.

How do I register?

Go to the site listed below and follow the instructions.
<https://class.perspectives.org/FindAClass.aspx>

First night is free!

November
Milestones

Birthdays

- 1 Teresa Porzelius
- 2 Diane Swanson
- 3 Shirley Funk
- 3 Sherry Luning
- 4 Stella Meiss
- 4 Ruth Grace
- 7 Dave Poppen
- 12 Penny Grusy
- 12 Tyler Roth
- 12 Lindsay Schneider
- 13 Chloe Barth
- 16 Cory Deckard
- 17 Josh Carroll
- 17 Sadie Meiss
- 19 Larry Neuhalten
- 21 Dianne Kuerth
- 21 Thelma Wesle
- 21 Abby Klein
- 23 Wes Crump
- 23 Janell Hall
- 25 Ferne Kilpatrick
- 26 Cruz Hitchens
- 26 Ezme Fehr
- 26 Tim Johnson
- 26 Megan Shaffer
- 28 Janet Wiser
- 28 Maren Fehr
- 28 David Ruff
- 29 Andy Huette
- 29 Alli Jeffreys

Anniversaries

- 1 Greg & Alicia Allen
- 7 Jim & Marge Todd
- 11 Chuck & Melissa Eskridge
- 12 Dave & Peggy Poppen
- 16 Dave & Alisa Ihlenfeldt
- 17 John & Laura Dirks
- 24 Denny & Dee Foor
- 28 Jeff & Becky Stoller

Attendance & Offering

9.29	312	\$7,781
10.6	357	\$12,404
10.13	276	\$12,547
10.20	317	\$9,121

Check out the
CCC App!



Available Content:

THE SPUR

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Insights from our
Bible Reading Plan.

Glimpses of Grace

Testimonies of
God's grace within our
church family.

Go to the app store and
search "CCC of Gridley."