



# TRUE LIGHT

*Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105*

**June 11, 2023**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Sunday School :  
9:30 a.m.  
Worship:  
10:15 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

### MINISTER

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

### ELDERS

David Bureson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### DEACONS

Wayne Reams  
Rodney Williams

**OFFICE: 573-293-5620**  
**Bernie Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**Bernie, MO 63822**

**EMAIL:**  
berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

**We Welcome You  
To All Of Our  
Services**

## THE DELIVERY ROOM

I don't care who you are - doctor, nurse, or parents expecting a child - you are nervous when you go to the delivery room to have your first baby. Some of that nervousness is pure excitement as you wait to have your first child. Some excitement also comes from the fear of the unknown - and that's true no matter how many birthing classes you've attended. Some of the excitement is the emotions of taking on the responsibility of another life to raise - an eternal person under your care.

When Nicodemus approached Jesus one night, Jesus challenged him to be born again - to be the main attraction in the delivery room of grace. Without a doubt, Nicodemus was nervous hearing Jesus say that this admirable leader needed to be delivered into a new life!

*None of us is good enough to earn our way to God. God doesn't grade on the curve or weigh our sins against the sins of others to see who gets into the Father's grace.*

Nicodemus was the best that religion had to offer. He was a man from the strictest and most devoted sect of the Jewish people, the Pharisees. He was not only a leading teacher among the Jews, but he also was a member of the Jewish Ruling

Council called the Sanhedrin. Not many in Israel's history could claim such a pedigree. Most with any religious pedigree in Jesus' day fiercely opposed him. Instead, Nicodemus went against the grain and confessed to Jesus: *Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him* (John 3:2).

Jesus' response to such a magnanimous gesture on Nicodemus' part was shocking: *Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again"* (John 3:3).

Nicodemus reply to Jesus' rebuke was very much to be expected, *"How...? Surely...!"* It was Nicodemus' way of saying, "I doubt it."

While the physical possibility of being born all over again was impossible for Nicodemus (John 3:4), the other possibility was even more ludicrous. For Jesus to tell someone of Nicodemus' exemplary background that he had to be baptized like a Gentile and reborn by the Spirit of God was unthinkable (John 3:5-7). Nicodemus was the best of the best! He was as good of a person as Jesus was going to find. He had the religious pedigree, he had dedicated his life to holiness, and he had a heart that sought after God.

This condition is Jesus' point! If Nicodemus needed to be born of God, then all of us do. If Nicodemus needed grace despite all his religious accomplishments and his genuinely God-seeking heart, then we desperately need grace, too. If Nicodemus needed to believe that *"the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him,"* (John 3:14-15) then so must you and me! After all, that is why God's love sent Jesus to us (John 3:16-17).

None of us is good enough to earn our way to God. God doesn't grade on the curve or weigh our sins against the sins of others to see who gets into the Father's grace. His righteous character and gracious compassion are the standard set for us. We all fail at living up to that standard. So, the Father sent Jesus so that through our faith in the one who was *"lifted up"* would grab our hearts (John 12:22) and could be counted as our righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21).

We don't make a claim of being *"the best of the best"* and get into grace (Romans 3:21-27; Ephesians 2:1-10). We enter the kingdom of God's grace because we place our trust in what Jesus did to save us (1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Romans 6:3-7). Because of our faith in Jesus and his sacrifice, God declares us, *"holy in his sight, without blemish, and free from accusation"* (Colossians 1:21-23).

This declaration, my dear friend in Jesus, is good news. No longer are we striving to outwork others in holiness to gain God's favor. We don't have to have the religious pedigree or the highest reputation in all the land. The Father has already shown his love and desire to save us. He now asks us to receive his grace through faith and sharing in what saves us - Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

**Continued on back**

## **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

June 11 - Ethan Flowers  
June 12 - Kynlie Allen  
Ashley Hayes  
Joe & Sharlette Watson (A)  
June 13 - Scott & Judy Flannery (A)  
June 16 - Judy Flannery  
June 17 - David & Cindy Burleson (A)  
Mike & Judy Duley (A)  
Jacie McGowan

## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Velveeta Cheese \* Nuts \* Disinfectant Spray (i.e. Lysol) \* Bathroom Tissue Paper \* Light Bulbs \* Spaghetti Sauce

Pick up date: July 24, 2023

**Attendance for May 28: 107**  
**Contribution for May 28: \$4511**

## **WILLING TO SERVE**

### **June 11, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Jason Karnes  
Prayer.....Sam Garner  
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

### **Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

### **June 18, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....BJ Thomason  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson  
Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

### **Continued from front:**

Once Nicodemus saw Jesus "lifted up," something changed in his heart. At the worst possible time for his safety, influence, and position, Nicodemus stepped out of the shadows and demonstrated his faith in Jesus. He helped Joseph of Arimathea take, prepare, and bury the body of the Savior (June 19:38-42).

Nicodemus and Joseph did what only family or servants would have done: they made themselves ritually unclean by handling the dead body of Jesus and lovingly burying him. These loving actions disqualified them from their important roles in the Passover celebration and showed their loyalty to and tenderness with Jesus, the crucified Son of God. In the process, these two provided two credible witnesses that Jesus was dead. After all, you cannot have a resurrected Savior without having one who was certifiably dead.

Nicodemus' journey to faith reminds us that someone who is old can take great risks and be born anew. That a person can begin a new life, fresh with the grace that is in Jesus! But, it will not happen "unless they are born again"!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Mike Duley is home and waiting on an appointment with a gastroenterologist in St. Louis \* **Jerel Jester** recovering from melanoma surgery. He will see his oncologist Wednesday \* **Ted Jacques** (Karla's husband) doing better following an automobile accident \* **Louella Akers** is not doing well \* **Clyde Jacques** suffered a stroke last week \* **Karen Forkum and Gloria Moore** struggling with many health issues \* **Travis Cooper** is not doing well \*

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* David Burleson \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Ida Roberts \* Waynetta Rodgers \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson \* Woody Wood

### **Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :**

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beard \* Cathy Bennett \* Gina Bogle \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Ronnie Goins \* Patricia Greninger \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Holly Johnson \* Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Linda Morgan \* Paula Mason \* Mike Napier \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Nikki Reif \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

### **Other health issues (non-congregational):**

Dixie Billingsley \* DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Ruth Dauck \* Jerry Grimes \* Katie Hicks \* Grant Howard \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Eva Latham \* Nikki Lawrence \* Tim Lecroy \* Shug Lee \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Brenda Robinson \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \* Heather Whitehead \*

### **Our Shut Ins**

Louella Akers \* Travis Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

### **Looking Ahead**

TODAY: CRC Day for Crowley's Ridge College. We will have a donation box in the foyer for contributions to their scholarship fund for Bible majors.

\*\*\*

Ladies Lunch Out Tuesday at the Airways Café in Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

\*\*\*

Our Summer Series speaker this week will be Kevin Lawrence from the Gideon congregation. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer.

\*\*\*

Session 3 of BYC will be July 9-14. There are some applications on the table in the foyer; early registration deadline to save \$25 is June 25.

\*\*\*

VBS is coming to Bernie July 23-26. Our theme this year will be "Noah's Ark Adventures." We will need lots of help - please see Ginger to let her know what you can do!

### **Gardening God's Way**

Plant three rows of "peas": Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul

Plant four rows of "squash": Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of "lettuce": Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind, Lettuce be obedient, Lettuce love one another

No garden would be complete without "turnips": Turnip for meetings, Turnip for service, Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

To conclude our garden we must have "thyme": Thyme for God, Thyme for study, Thyme for prayer.

Author unknown