

Minnesota Messenger

CHURCHES OF GOD



**Spring Conference
2023 - June 9, 10, & 11**
Guest Speaker:
Michael Cisler
Topic:
Book of Hebrews



Michael & Melinda Cisler

Michael Cisler spent 24 years in pastoral ministry before taking on an administrative role at Atlanta Bible College. He served churches in Ontario and Michigan before becoming the academic dean and registrar at the college. Michael grew up at the Southlawn Church of God in Michigan, before attending Atlanta Bible College. His wife, Melinda (Nelson) is originally from the Eden Valley Church of God. Michael and Melinda have four children and one grandson, all involved in the Church of God.

Throughout the course of the conference Michael will be teaching and preaching on the book of Hebrews. There will be some doctrinal teaching on Jesus' position compared to others, Jesus as high priest, the new covenant compared to the old covenant, and more. There will also be application teaching focused on holding firmly to our hope, keeping our focus on Christ, and valuing our relationship with our church family.

Needed for MN Junior Camp

Adults, we are in search of a cook for our camps. Also, if you are interested in volunteering to help teach a class for a day, help with a workshop (fishing or photography), join/lead the worship team, play musical instruments, sing contemporary worship songs, or help with water activities, please contact Bethany Becker at bbecker0819@gmail.com



**Minnesota
Senior Bible
Camp
June 23rd-
June 25th**

Minnesota Junior Bible Camp
Theme: Living Water
June 18th-23rd, 2023

Registration begins at 5pm at Long Lake Bible Camp. Friday pickup is at noon. This is for 4th-8th graders (Must be age 9/or entering 4th grade in the fall, and not older than entering 8th grade in the fall).

Register for camp at: mncogconference.org
Jason and Bethany Becker, Junior Camp Directors

Friday starting at noon, and then concluding Sunday night/Monday morning. This is for teens entering 9th grade and up! It starts immediately following the conclusion of Junior Camp.

Interested in Youth Work?

Are you interested in working with the youth in our MN Church of God Conference? Do you have ideas for youth activities? If you do have an interest, contact President Gaye Rollins at wood.gaye@yahoo.com

Save the Date

Flourish

Psalm 115:14

Women's Enrichment
Weekend

October 6-8, 2023

@ Church of God Campground

Hutchinson Church of God

We welcomed a new baby! Mad-den Fleck was born to Amber & Jayden Fleck on Jan. 13th. Many in the congregation supported Avery Schiller as she did a wonderful job in playing the colorful part of "Mayzie" in the Hutchinson Musical, "Suessical Jr."

The youth are toward the end of their Bible study of Eschatology. They have been researching the "tree of life" and the "river of life" mentioned in Revelation chapter 22. The congregation enjoyed their Resurrection service planned by Linda Sandifer. The sermon was by Alan Cain via Facebook video. There was a lovely special by Crystal Olson and daughter Avery. The church was blessed to have Crystal Olson playing piano and Linda Sandifer and Avery leading the joyous singing. Our traditional bags of 30 pieces of silver were offered. It was nice to have visiting families back to celebrate Christ's resurrection with us- Jacob & Kelsey Forcier, Mindy & Todd Pursel, Faith Forcier & John Peterson, Maddison

& Mitch Reiner, and college students Sophia Becker and Ben Karl.

Anita Messner will be undergoing chemo for breast cancer over the next 12 weeks. Jason & Bethany Becker are working on planning the youth camp. The farmers will be back in the field shortly, praise God for the wonderful couple days of lovely spring weather! Prayers would be greatly appreciated for these things.

Amanda Forcier, reporter

House Light Ministries

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ from House Light Ministries!

The Moores enjoyed a visit from Shirley Vance (Ohio) and her brother Ken in October in time to celebrate Ed Moore's 83rd birthday with the family. Joyce Moore observed her 80th birthday in November, 2022, with many family and friends visiting to celebrate her.

Floyd "Ed" Moore died November 26, 2022, at the age of 83 after a bout of pneumonia. Funeral services were held on December 3rd. He is

survived by his wife Joyce, children Sherry (Lanny) McAlister, Jeff (Terri) Moore, Lisa (Darrell) Hoemberg, and Jenny Moore; 11 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren. Ed was a man of goodness and faith and we look forward to being reunited with him at the resurrection when Jesus returns.

Winter was quiet for us at House Light Ministries without serious illness or other occurrences. Darrell & Lisa Hoemberg were kept busy attending sporting events to watch their grandchildren participating in basketball. Jared Hoemberg coached junior high boys' basketball. Jeff Moore refereed junior high basketball games at schools over an hour away. Eileen Hartung made frequent visits to the Twin Cities to visit her grandchildren. Jeff & Terri Moore traveled to Fargo to visit their daughter Victoria and her husband David, as well as a trips to see son Samuel throw shot put for Minnesota State in Mankato. Jeff and Terri enjoyed having Samuel and three of his friends visit over the New Year's weekend. In February, Jeff and Terri visited the Hutchinson Church for a Sunday morning service and fellowship.

Several church members are also doing "Read the Bible in Year" along with people from Journey Outreach, SC, and have a weekly Bible Study covering the reading.

Jeff Moore's golden retriever female gave birth to 10 puppies on April 3rd. Puppies are for sale and will be ready to go by Memorial Day weekend. Contact Jeff by text or phone call at 218-639-1649 if you are interested in purchasing a full-blooded golden retriever puppy.

Terri is preparing to speak at the National Women's Conference on June 15-17, 2023, at the Oregon Church of God. She will also be presenting a workshop about how to study the Bible. Hope to see you ladies there!!

Preparations are underway for a MN State COG Women's Enrich-

ment Weekend at the state campground on October 6-8, 2023. The theme of the weekend is "Flourish." A team of women drawn from the MN Churches of God across the state are putting together a special weekend of worship, sharing, and fun!

Terri Moore, reporter

Eden Valley Church of God

Eden Valley Church of God has been having more children coming to our church recently and Kelsy Dockendorf agreed to serve as Sunday School Superintendent on a 6-month trial basis. More classrooms have been added and classes have been lengthened to 45 minutes.

A bake sale was organized by Kelsy which brought in money to help fund camp tuition. Thank you Kelsy!

A church member donated 3D books with a mirror and Scripture on them with donations going to the Sunday School program. On the second Sunday of the month Sunday School children meet to sing Bible songs. This is led by Lynn Piram. Also led by Lynn is a new baptism class for those who have an interest in baptism, or who have already been baptized. Thank you Lynn!

We have mourned the deaths of Alice Wadsworth who passed away on March 16th, Lowell Schoenherr who passed away on March 23rd, and Dean Sogge who passed away on March 29th. We are praying for these families.

Work has been completed on the parsonage roof. A new metal roof was installed on top of the existing roof.

We have members who are working towards hosting Ukrainian families in order to help them find jobs and to become self-sufficient in the United States.

About a year ago we started an adult Bible study where we are reading a chronological Bible and are less than a month away from completing the entire reading.

Tina Johnson, reporter

Pine Grove Bible Church

The last months of 2022 were busy with several activities. The annual Harvest Supper was held on Nov. 12th, with lots of good food and fellowship. Operation Christmas Child wrapped up with a packing party on Nov. 18th. 231 boxes were packed that evening!

The youth room, stairwell, and men's and women's restrooms received fresh coats of paint in early December. The annual children's Christmas musical was held Sunday evening, Dec. 11th. "Angel Alert" was enjoyed by all in attendance, as the children shared the important message of Christ's birth.

Bill Gaspar was honored on his 80th birthday, Dec. 29th, with a dinner at the church hosted by his family. Church family and friends also attended to wish him well and share the joy of this occasion.

A 24 hour prayer vigil was held New Year's Eve with all one hour slots filled with prayer participants, praying for the needs of the church, congregation, and outreach to our community and world.

2023 began with a new plan for ladies' gatherings, presented by Hope Fletcher. The ladies are getting together monthly on various days of the week for food and fellowship, either meeting at the church, or going out to eat.

We congratulate Jacob and Meghan Burke on the birth of their daughter Ezli born on March 9th.

Abigail Johnson was honored at a baby shower on Sunday March 26th with a luncheon, and entertaining games planned by Makenna Landry.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Missionary Society was held at Pine Grove on March 19th.

Our youth served at Feed My Starving Children on March 25th. On April 16th they went to Grand Slam in

Coon Rapids for pizza and mini golf.

Blood Drives have been held on Nov. 29th and Feb. 14th. 31 units were collected in November.

Pastor Fletcher preached a sermon series on James in early 2023, and recently finished preaching on the Fruits of the Spirit, focusing on a specific fruit each Sunday. Pastor JJ was able to attend Ministers Conference in OH Feb. 27-Mar. 2nd. On Wednesday nights, the video series "Reason for God" is being viewed.

The annual Easter breakfast, cooked and served by the church men, was enjoyed before our joyful Easter worship service.

Bill Savage, with the new title of emeritus elder at Pine Grove, was honored at a church dinner on April 23rd. Bill has been in active service to our Lord for 60 years and counting. The congregation is thankful for his continued devotion and service to God, an example to all of us.

Paula Kirkpatrick, reporter

From Tracy Zhykhovich

If you are not on the KOG Missions monthly Newsletter and would like to be, email Tracy at: tracy@kog-missions.com (In the cover letter I put more news about Maksim and things that cannot be on the internet.) You can read the March newsletter here: <https://kogmissions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Missions-Newsletter-March-2023.pdf> and you can find all the back newsletters here: <https://kogmissions.com/newsletters>.

In the March Newsletter there is a write up and video honoring Judy Myers who served in missions for many years, which we all are grateful for!

Minnesota Missionary Society

Minutes

The Annual Minnesota Missionary Society meeting was held at the Pine

Grove Bible Church on March 19, 2023.

Attendance: Sarah Johnson, Tracy Zhykhovich, Todd & Amy Blanchard, Linda & Monte Sandifer, Jon & Sue Lapp, Carolyn & Deborah Smead, Amanda Forcier, Bill Savage, Nathaniel Johnson, and Vivian P. Kirkpatrick

The treasurer's report was read by Carolyn. There were no questions so Bill Savage made a motion to accept the report as read and Sue Lapp 2nd the motion.

The secretary's report was read by Amanda. Todd Blanchard made a motion to accept the report and Amy Blanchard 2nd. Nathaniel moved to accept both the reports as read, and the group accepted them.

Old Business- Todd Blanchard was asked if he would be one of the Kim Johnson Endowment Fund overseers. Todd responded that he would look over the literature and decide by the next meeting. Other overseers are Carolyn Smead and Larry Johnson. The secretary will talk to Dan Karl about being a part of the group.

There was discussion about the disbursement and care of the Kim Johnson Endowment Fund (KJEF). Sarah requested Steve An's, director of the ABC Korean Extension, email address so that she can make him aware of the KJEF.

Sarah presented information over the mission fields that the Lord's Harvest International (LHI) and Minnesota Missionary Society have been supporting. The 2023 goal of the LHI is to distribute 800 Bibles in the receiver's language. A link to the Power Point that Sarah presented will be attached to this report when it becomes available. Prayer for the mission fields is encouraged.

Sarah read Romans 10:14-15 and encouraged everyone to find their mission field and act on it!

New business:

In June the MMS send a \$350 check with Russ Rankin for sending

Bibles to Ethiopia. This check was never cashed, so Carolyn will issue a new check. Jon Lapp made a motion to send another \$200 in addition to the original \$350. After discussion, this motion was 2nd by Sue Lapp and the group approved of the motion.

Tracy Z. gave an update on the Pakistan ministry. Maryam & Haroon Gulzar moved to the United Kingdom. But they continue to pastor in Pakistan. They are making videos so that they can keep, and influence the individuals that they had relationships with in Pakistan. Prayer is requested for the video preparation and that the videos are successful in their purpose. Restoration Fellowship collects and sends donations to this ministry. Sue Lapp made motion to send \$550 to "Save the Faith" ministry in Pakistan for the distribution of the booklets. Bill S. 2nd the motion. Before a vote there was discussion until Nathaniel called for the vote. The motion was approved by the group.

Nominations for treasurer were opened. Carolyn Smead was nominated. Sue Lapp asked for the secretary to cast an unanimous ballot for Carolyn as Treasurer with a big thanks for the job she has done in the past. The group approved of this nomination with applause.

Nathaniel Johnson's term as Vice President expired and he would not accept the nomination again. Nathaniel nominated Amanda Forcier, the MMS Secretary, for Vice President. Nathaniel asked that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Amanda Forcier as Vice President. This motion was seconded by Sue Lapp. The group approved this nomination.

The 2024 Annual Mission Meeting will be held March 3rd at 2 pm at the Pine Grove Bible Church. The location may be reviewed later in the year.

The next meeting of the MN Missionary Society will be held during the MN State Conference which will take

place June 9-11th at the Church of God Bible Campground. More specifically, the meeting will be held Sunday, June 11th after the annual congregational meeting at approximately 3pm.

Nathaniel moved to adjourn the meeting with Sarah seconding the motion. Nathaniel dismissed the meeting in prayer.

Amanda Forcier, secretary

Support the MN Conference

Remember to check out the MN Church of God Conference website. There is so much available there, including the online Systematic Bible Study course. <https://mncogconference.org/> Scroll to the bottom of the homepage and like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. We are also on LinkedIn and YouTube. If you would like to support the MN Conference, you can give your offering online here. <https://mncogconference.org/online-giving> Also, donations can be sent to the treasurer, Dan Karl. Mail checks to: Dan Karl 19199 651st Avenue Buffalo Lake, MN 55314

BLAST FROM THE PAST



1971 Junior Camp Counselors
Can you name them?

