

Our Record

Sunday Bible Study
 Morning Assembly 66
 Contribution \$2645
 Evening Assembly —
 Wednesday Class

In Search of the Lord's Way is shown on Charter Cable Channel 12 at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, and at 6:00 PM Sunday, and on Dish Network Channel 259 and Charter Cable Channel 60.1 at 6:30 AM Sundays. Both Charter Cable & Dish Network now provide the "Inspirational Channel."

Ministry Leaders: Everett Hinton—Worship Ministry
 Brad Bailey—Missions
 Jim Fielder —Youth
 Bryan Jurrens—Buildings/Grounds
 Gaylin Prior—Music/Treasurer
 Dick Witt—Education/Benevolence

Minister: Russ Dudrey e-mail: russdudrey@gmail.com
 phone: 402-834-0096 (home)

Bulletin: Sharon Hachtel—463-4997
 e-mail: sh95736@windstream.net

Deadline for bulletin announcements is 9:00 PM Friday evening

THOSE TO SERVE

This Sunday, December 1 Next Sunday, December 8

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	J Fielder	J Fielder	G Prior	G Prior
Song Leader	D Witt	D Brennfrdr	M Glassmyer	E Hinton
Opening Prayer	J Meyers	B Bailey	N Towell	R Grissom
Closing Prayer	E Hinton	C Fielder	S Dinkler	D Witt
Usher	B Jurrens		R Munsell	
Greeters	Wrights		Munsells	
Preside Lord's Supper	D Corman		J Fielder	
Serve	C Peshek		B Bailey	
Serve	R Grissom		A Adams	
Serve	M Glassmyer		D Hachtel	
Coordinator	G Prior		D Wright	
Prepare Lord's Supper	S Grissom		S Grissom	
Children's Church	Meeting Today		Meeting Today	
Wednesday LTC	Volunteer Needed		Volunteer Needed	
Change Message Sign	Jim Fielder Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	---		---	

Family Focus

Number 48

December 1, 2013

Upcoming Events

- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—Dec 8
- NYC Contribution—Dec 22

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "What the Rulers Didn't Know: The Mystery of Our Redemption." Tonight Russ plans a devotional of songs and scriptures from Ephesians.
- **Jami Riley** has asked to be identified as a member of our congregation. She is the daughter of Richard and Angie Riley. She brings with her her sons Ray and Aden. We are delighted to welcome them into our church family. Their contact information is: Jami Riley, 1040 Wabash #111, Hastings NE 68901. 806-567-1343.
- **We Have Posted** on the bulletin board a thank you note from Russel Bell for a contribution we sent to an orphanage in India in memory of his wife, Patricia.
- **Note from the Brennfoerders:** Words cannot express our appreciation for all of the calls, cards, emails, prayers, thoughts and kind words and Christian Love we have received following the earthly loss of Grandpa Daly. He commented after Kelsey's wedding how friendly, helpful, and cooperative everyone was for the wedding. We couldn't agree more. Loss is so much easier with faith and hope, and the Promise of eternal life. His last message was Jesus is our Hope, our only Hope. Thank you, Christian Family, again for everything. —DudLee & Debbie Brennfoerder
- **Wednesday Evening Treats**—Volunteer needed.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** next Sunday, December 8. Committee members are the Hintons and Jurrens. Reminder to bring your non-perishable food item for the Mountain States Children's Home.

Enrichment Opportunities

Sunday Bible Study	9:30
College Class	9:30
Sunday Assembly	10:30
Sunday Evening	6:00
Wednesday Class	7:00
Ladies Class Thursday	9:30

- "Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil—it has no point."
- "All of the flowers of all of the tomorrows are in the seeds of today."

- via THE SOWER, a weekly publication of the Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL. Ron Bartanen, who serves as minister and editor, may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://www.arthurchurchofchrist.com>

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Country; High School & College Students; Our Veterans; those affected by the Illinois Tornadoes; Bill Ashmore—health; Brad Bailey’s Sister—Linda Breuggeman, cancer surgery recovery & treatment; Bohne Family—personal issues; DudLee Brennförder’s Father, Gary—cancer treatment; Tom Dill—health; Ned & Neva Cooper—health; Peggy Dill—glaucoma eye surgery; Scott Dinkler’s Grandfather, John Schiefelbein & John’s two brothers—cancer treatment; Loren Daly Family—Passing of Loren; Felice Dudley—care of mother; Monica Fielder’s Brother—military deployment to Afghanistan; Nick Valle’s little brother, Gavin—injury; Shelley German—cancer treatment; Robert & Susan Grissom’s Son, Jaime, spiritual concerns; Joel Grissom—transitioning from military to private sector; Danelle Hayes—health; Jeffery Hergenreder—deployment to Africa; Cassidy Jurrens—health; Ileen Lenhart’s grandson & sisters—health; Ken Lockling—health, his daughter Carolyn; Ann Luke—recovering from back surgery; Bill & Judy Melvin—health; Joseph Morrow’s Brother—lupus; Johnny Meyers—health; Louise Nealeigh—fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue; Seth Ostrander—brain tumor; Shirley Steen’s grandson, Adam; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Kamryn Towell’s Grandfather—Injury & surgery; Jo Wright’s son (Joe)—heart condition, medical tests & family; Jo Wright’s Grandson, Parker, accident injury (burns); Jo Wright’s daughter-in-law, shoulder surgery; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma’s health; Dick Witt’s Mother—eye issues; Tina Witt; Lisa Worley’s, brother-in-law, Tom Kelly—cancer treatment; Dick & Detta Wright’s Great Grandson, Cole Wright, hip surgery; body cast.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: Russel Bell (mission work in India & Romania).

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Jeffery Hergenreder. Jeffery’s address is as follows:

Africa: SPC Hergenreder, Jeffery
PSC 831 Box 0101
FPO AE 093633

Happy December Birthday To:

Jeremy Voorhees	- 1	Eloise Lockling	- 2	Elizabeth Montemayor	- 4
Brooke Bailey	- 5	Benjamin Bohne	- 8	Doris Reichert	- 9
Bill Melvin	- 13	David Moore	- 17	Brittany Bailey	- 17
Lorinda Bailey	- 28	Marina Fielder	- 31		

Happy December Anniversary To:

William & Alice Wells	- 1	Dick & Paula Witt	- 16	Andy & Erica Adams	- 22
Ken & Eloise Lockling	- 29				

- Bless God for what you have. Trust God for what you need. In all things, pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- A happy home is not one without problems, but one that handles them with understanding and love.
- No life is too broken for God to repair.

_____ via BulletinGold

THE DIVINE MYSTERY REVEALED

How explain the mystery of the atonement? In the fourth century Gregory of Nyssa worked out the Trap theory: The humanity of Jesus was the bait, the divinity of Jesus was the hook, and Satan fell for it. God caught Satan and destroyed his power. In the fifth century Augustine used another Trap analogy: The cross was the mousetrap, the blood of Christ the bait, and Satan couldn’t resist it.

Well, yes and no. Nothing in the New Testament says that God deceived Satan into doing what God really wanted him to do, like a chess player using a gambit move. But the “Trap” theories capture one important truth: Satan is a fool. If “the rulers of this age” had foreseen the doom they would bring down upon themselves by killing Christ, Paul says “they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8). The rulers Paul has in mind are not just Annas and Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod, but Satan and his demon-hosts too.

But Satan is no simpleton who can be bait-and-switched by a divine deception. His foolishness is his hatred, his falsehood, his evil. He is a hater, a liar, a murderer. He couldn’t pass up the chance to slaughter the Lamb, no matter the consequences. He couldn’t know what God was doing, because he had chosen to darken his whole heart and conscience and moral understanding. *“And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it”* (John 1:5). Evil is spiritually bedarkened.

Hatred cannot understand self-sacrificial love. “All seems infected that the infected spy, as all seems yellow to the jaundiced eye,” said Alexander Pope. Satan cannot understand goodness. When evil saw Jesus, it could hate him, but it could not comprehend him; it could only try to destroy him.

That’s another truth in the Trap theory. God did not take Satan into his counsels—“Satan, would you mind if I sent my Son into the world to deliver it from your power by dying for it?” Satan is not all-knowing; he is not a power, nor a spiritual mind, equal and opposite to God. Satan is morally and spiritually clueless. Hatred is foolish. Evil is morally stupid.

Ephesians speaks of the mystery of redemption that God planned from before the foundation of the world. God purposed before the ages began to create the world in order to bring Christ into it and through him to re-create lost and fallen humankind into his image: *“God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth”* (Eph. 1:9-10).

In fact, God planned to make his divine mystery visible, not just to humankind, but to the hostile spirit-forces in the heavenly places. *“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood,”* says Paul, *“but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 6:12-13). Through Christ the mystery is brought to light, plain, clear and open, where everyone—enemies included—can see it.

God reveals his mystery not only through Christ, but also through his church: *“Although I am the very least of all the saints,”* says Paul, *“this grace was given to me: to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places, in accordance with the eternal purpose which he carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Eph. 3:8-11).

Ancient mystery religions were based on secret mysteries known only to their initiates. Anyone who revealed the mysteries would be killed, so to this day we don’t know what the mysteries were. When God revealed his eternal mystery, he turned the mystery religions upside down. The mystery of Christ, says Paul, is not a mystery known only by the elite—God has made it known openly, publicly, universally. In Christ and in his church God reveals his divine mystery for all to see.

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