

PULSE OF THE CONGREGATION

January | February | March | April | May | June | July

Upcoming Events

July 24-29: Youth Camp

Jul 31-Aug 6: Reunion

July 22: LRS Study Night

Aug 11: Youth Night

Aug 25: LRS Craft Night

Local Officers 2023

Pastor: Brian Herren

Counselors:

Gary Livingston, Jim Clark

Treasurer: Jim Clark

Secretary: Dorothy Herren

Recorder: Melissa Clark

Youth Commission: Amos, Melissa Johnson, Michael Livingston

Regional Officers '23

Regional Director: Brian Herren

Counselors:

Mike Terry, Gary Jones

Treasurer: Travis Clark

Secretary: Melissa Herren

Youth Director: Travis Clark

Women's Director: Dianna Clark

Church School: Melissa Johnson

Music Director: Cessaries Galusha

Activities Director: Michael Livingston

Congratulations!

By Sister Cessaries Galusha

Praise the Lord! We congratulate two of our wonderful youth as they graduate from being youth to young adults! Benjamin and Kaitlin Herren graduated high school on June 9, 2023, and are now on to new adventures as they train for the workforce and their lives ahead.

Benjamin's immediate plans for the future include working as a material handler for an electric company and then moving on to trade school to become an electrician. He has a keen eye for detail and process and we are excited to see where he goes from here!

Kaitlin plans to attend Chemeketa Community College in the fall for two years to finish general course requirements and begin her nursing degree. She will then transfer to Linfield to complete her nursing program as an OB RN. Her end goal is to become a nurse for labor and delivery. She has had a keen interest for medical procedures and anatomy since she was young, even spending her free time watching surgery videos and reading medical textbooks for fun!

We thank the Lord for the lives of these two beautiful souls, who have grown in faith, charity, and service unto the Lord. We pray for their continued blessings and rejoice in their accomplishments!



A Blessing of Pews

By Brother Jim Clark

As we have been striving to buy or build a church building in Salem, many blessings of the Lord have been manifested. The Lord's plan is truly always best and many times unexpected. One such blessing began as a neighbor of Ron and Sharon Trammell mentioned his organization had bought an old church, were renovating it, and were going to sell the pews within it. We had decided we would eventually like to have pews in our sanctuary when our church could be constructed. An appointment was made to see the pews, and we became aware that pews in our area were being sold for \$100.00+ per a pew.



In the church were twenty-four pews. The back matching twelve were not what we would want, however the front matching twelve were very nice and we were interested in them. The owner stated that they wanted to remove them quickly and they wanted to sell all twenty-four together. We figured our need based on the size of the future chapel, and it came to twelve pews. The first question was would the owner allow us to only buy twelve pews, and the twelve best pews, leaving them with the problem of disposing of the other, less desirable half. We asked and to our surprise they agreed. The next question would be one of price, they asked us to make an offer. Now, this is a difficult position because we did not want to insult them, we wanted to be fair, however we wanted to pay as little as possible at the same time.

We asked if they would sell them to us for \$500.00 - \$1,000.00. Letting them know that we wanted to be fair, and we really did not know their fair value. They stated \$1,000.00 was too much, and \$500.00 was sufficient to purchase them. Wooden pews at just over \$40.00 each, available in our area, and in the exact quantity we would be needing could not be denied as truly a blessing. We proceeded with the purchase and now had a need to store them. Many saints offered up their homes, garages, or storage units in that all twelve could be stored until such a time as they could be installed in our house of worship.

Our Heavenly Father is aware of our needs and provides for us in miraculous ways. Firstly, we give what we can, then He blesses us beyond our own thoughts and plans. The fruition of this blessing shall be sweet as we worship upon that which was made manifest even when we were not looking for this blessing to be given at that time. Through the process many also have felt blessed as a steward of His wonderful blessing. The blessings of the Lord are perfect and often multiplied within several levels teaching and growing His saints to come to recognize and realize lessons through His goodness. May we rejoice, praise God, and give thanks for His graciousness, His condescension unto His children, that through Him we are ever so blessed!



Youth Activities for 2023

By Brother Amos Johnson

This year we had some fantastic times with all the youth. We have bonded and made closer friendships together and hopefully we have all gotten closer to the Lord. We have had the pleasure of hosting the youth nights every 2nd Friday of the month and in those times, we had a blast, from playing board games, to eating delicious food and snacks, to planning worships, to talking about school, plans, and anything else that popped into our brains and so much more. For activities, the youth had the opportunity for fun, service, and worship. We went bowling, where Rochele taught us all a lesson. We had a progressive dinner ending in a very “harmonious” time at Cessaries’ home with lots of instruments! We had the most fun imaginable picking up trash on earth day at the park, which, funny enough, was at the same time as the earth day trash picking up event, we managed to look like we were very official and part of the event. We went and visited with Bill and Nancy Curtis, where we had fun sharing and hearing about their lives, they liked us so much they let us play pool and gave us root beer floats afterwards. Most recently we had a campfire, which was a nice get away from the craziness of life. Hopefully we will return the fire pit before the end of the year (sorry Brian!). Overall we have been blessed to get together and have not only fun, but be of service and worship our Heavenly Father.

Ladies Relief Society Craft Night

By Sister Trina Herren

Craft night always comes with something different and fun! The LRS decided earlier in the year to send out postcards to those who come to our minds, led by God, just as a show of how much they mean to us. It was brought to a subsequent meeting to design a few cards together. Our night started out with an explanation of how to use a squeegee to create a super amazing design on the post cards we were creating. Never had I considered using a squeegee, paint, and postcards to make art but it proved to be easy and the product was beautiful. A robust conversation broke out during our evening together about Spiderman, and who would appreciate a message from a Spiderman get-well card. Our table and hearts were full as we ended our evening with 10-15 cards accomplished. Peter was the life of the party as each took their turn convincing Gabriella to share the baby. We look forward to gathering again in many other fashions of service and play.



Restoration Roofers 2023

By Brother Ron Trammell

On June 22, the Restoration Roofers started another roofing project, this time at the Trammell home to replace our roof. Thursday night when we started, it was a very warm evening, but a number of Saints showed up and before dark, the old roof was removed and staples were pulled in preparation for a new roof to be put on starting Friday afternoon. Brother Travis and brother Brian also replaced a bad section of wood on the corner of the roof. Friday evening the restoration roofers showed up in force and started laying new paper and new shingles and we got a really good start on this project. Dinner was provided by Sharon and we were well fed and well blessed.



Saturday morning started another day and the weather was going to be warm that day, so we started early to get a good start while the weather was cool. A number of Saints showed up to continue roofing and we worked until noon at which time Todd and Nancy, Sharon's sister and brother-in-law, (Nancy has been fighting mouth cancer and has been in all of our prayers) brought pizza for the crew, for a well-deserved break. It turned into a good time to visit, as at that point, the weather had gotten too warm to continue working. So a break was taken until 6:30 that evening. The crew came back and we finished the project Saturday night. We had our usual crew of our Restoration Roofers with the addition of a couple new ones. Dr. Cook, from Sharon's office, showed up Saturday to help us and Amos Johnson is now officially a part of the Restoration Roofers.

Sharon and I would like to thank all those who helped with every aspect of this roofing project! I also just wanted to say that I have helped on a number of jobs like this as have others, where we've helped fellow saints, fellow friends, and fellow family members out and even though the work is hard, I've enjoyed the time that I've gotten to spend with my brothers and sisters in fellowship and the work just seems to flow on these projects. But I can now say, that it means so much more when the home is yours. To know that these saints will take time out of their day and work hard in the heat and in the dirt just to help you out, it is really overwhelming to me to know that I can count on everybody and feel the love of the saints.

From what I understand, this was just a warm up for another roofing project we will be doing this year, in September, for brother Kevin and sister Trina's home. I look forward to raising a hammer once more.



Mountain Camp

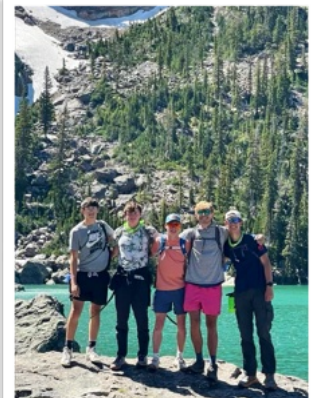
By Brother Benjamin Herren

This year I had the opportunity to attend Mountain Camp. There is a lottery system that decides who is able to attend. Interested campers enter their names, and around 20 names are chosen to attend. At Mountain Camp campers get split up into "families" with one male counselor and one female counselor who are married. There were three families of seven campers. We met together at the South Chrysler Restoration Branch and drove to Estes National park in Colorado from there. A large part of camp was hiking. Each day there was a hike and we stayed in tents overnight at a campground.



We started each day by making our lunches, which were PB&J sandwiches, and packing up our backpacks. Then we had a devotion brought by one of the families. After devotions we ate breakfast with our family group and did K.P. if it was our turn. When we were done with breakfast, the director would give some advice about the day's hike, and when he was done we all got in the cars and drove to the trailhead for that day's hike. When we arrived we hiked with our families. One family left at a time, and the next waited ten minutes and started the hike, then the last family waited ten minutes and started the hike. The hikes we went on were all "there and back" style hikes so once we came to the end of the hike we ate lunch and had a couple classes before we headed back down the trail in the same way we came up it. Once all the families finished the hike we went back to the campsite and had free time to shower and play spike ball until dinner was ready. When dinner was ready we ate as families. After dinner we had an all camp class taught by the pastor B.J. Schultz. When B.J. was done with his class we had family chats which was a time to plan devotions, if you had it the next morning, or pray and study with your family. The last thing we did each day was campfire where we sang songs and had a few prayers before we went back to the tents for the night.

Mountain camp was a great way to spend time and grow closer with our Heavenly Father. It was a whole week where we were outside in His creation. We experienced His creation from the enormous rocky mountains to the mountain creeks, from snow melt down to the delicate flowers growing in meadows along the trails.



Welcome Peter Clark!

By Brother Travis Clark

Peter Bryan Clark entered the world at 7:19 PM on May 4th, 2023, weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19 inches long. Maddy and I are so thankful to have a healthy baby boy added to our family and give great praise to our Heavenly Father for letting the delivery be smooth, with no complications. His birth is truly a blessing from The Lord. Parley has adjusted very well and loves to help by offering to put Peter's pacifier in his mouth and laying on the floor with him during tummy time. Peter tends to be fussy in the evenings, but makes up for it by only waking up 1 or 2 times in the night to eat. He is now 2 months old and loves to smile and try to grab his favorite toys.



Priesthood Calls

By Brother Gary Livingston

On November 29, 2022, both Travis Clark and Michael Livingston were ordained to the office of Priest. Travis was ordained by Priest Jim Clark, assisted by Elder Brian Herren. Michael was ordained by Elder Gary Livingston, assisted by Elder Brian Herren. When these two calls were first presented to the congregation, several stood and spoke on behalf of both Travis and Michael bearing further witness of the divine nature of their calls. Both men continue to serve faithfully in their office and calling.

Ladies Relief Society Study Project

By Sister Cessaries Galusha

The LRS has a study night scheduled every other month opposite our craft nights. Recently, our group has decided not to simply study works of other authors, but to engage in a project to write our own! We are currently studying the women of the Bible, but we want to incorporate our understandings of the inspiration of the Restored Gospel rather than to rely on other opinions and beliefs. We decided to split into small groups of 2-3 where each group studies and writes a chapter on a particular woman, meeting independently for a month. We then gather at our regular meeting to share our work with each other and either approve or adjust what we have written. We learn together, and grow in our expression of the inspiration the Lord gives us. We plan to continue with new assignments in the coming months, until we have covered them all! We are excited to grow in our understanding of the scriptures, as well as each other in sisterhood.

Mission to Nepal and India

By Brother Brian Herren

Brother Andrew Smith and I were blessed to serve in Nepal this April and May. The Lord had shown me in a dream that a younger woman in Singtam, India would receive the gospel and be baptized. Days later, and after teaching several days in Fikkell, the Lord was faithful to the spiritual dream and the young woman was baptized!!! Her name is Monisha Dass and her family had traveled two days, taking six different cars, to hear about the Restored Gospel. They didn't have money enough to pay for the transport, but had borrowed from all their neighbors to make the trip. The baptismal service was held in a wildly beautiful area, which was serene and peaceful. As soon as the ordinance had concluded and Sister Monisha came forth from the water, a soft rain began to fall with large drops that were spread out. It felt as though God Himself showed his approval. Just as she emerged from the water, the river began to leap and jump as the drops danced on the surface. It was a moving experience, and I paused in awe of the gentle Spirit there. Later that evening, when we were visiting with Monisha's father, Shilas, he asked us if we had noticed the moment the rain began to fall, and shared his belief that the Lord had been with us. We had all felt it. In Jhapa, we received an evening audience, as the sun set, but we understood the group would disperse so they could work the next day. Imagine our surprise when we arose at 5:00 am the next morning to find them all still there! They wanted more of the gospel, and received the Book of Mormon! The mission was filled with testimony of God's faithfulness and goodness!!! Praise Him.

