



# WHITE CREEK CHURCH

Independent Congregational

2948 14<sup>TH</sup> Lane Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965

Village of White Creek, Rural Adams County

Find us at: [whitecreekchurch.org](http://whitecreekchurch.org)

## January 5, 2025

### Welcome to Worship

NOTE: We will begin the service at 10:30. Meet and greet will be at 10:20 and after the service. Thank you.

Announcements

Hymn #188 "Come Thou Almighty King"

Devotion

Hymn #330 "There Is Power In The Blood"

Offering

Doxology - Inside front cover of hymnbook

Special Music

Testimonies/Prayer Requests

Memory Verses

Message

Communion

Hymn #469 "Grace Greater Than Our Sin"

Prayer

### PRAYER LIST

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

## CALENDAR

Sundays: Adult Sunday School - 9:15 A.M.  
Morning Service - 10:30 A.M.

Tuesdays: Ladies' Bible Study - 10:00 A.M.  
Senior Housing Clubhouse, Adams

Thursdays: Men's Bible Study @ Church - 5:30 PM  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> - Country Jam [weather permitting]

Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> - Women's Gathering 10AM

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> - FELLOWSHIP DINNER - NOON  
White Creek Church

Feb 22, 2025 -Ladies One Heart Seminar- Save the date!

### LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study will meet this Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, as always, if the weather permits. Please make plans to join the ladies as they resume this exciting Bible Study.

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Thursday from 5:30 to about 7:00 P.M. the men meet for Bible Study. We are studying in the Gospel of Matthew. We encourage all men of the Church to join us for the fellowship, as we grow in faith and the knowledge of the Lord.

### CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS 2024

Pastor: Sam Downey - 608-547-8198 - leave msg

Clerk: Pam Morse

Treasurer: Meryl Lanphear

Deacons: Martin Sytsma  
Stuart Burdick Moderator

Trustees: Larry Smith - 608-548-4413]  
Skip Collins  
David Seelenbinder

Missions Director:  
Beverly Downey

Other Officers :  
Custodian - Meryl Lanphear  
Sunshine Person - Anna Sytsma

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Meryl Lanphear 1      Scott & Cheryl Carlsen 13  
Abigail Auten 3  
Norm Roberg 16  
Debbie Nordman 22

Please notify us of additions or changes. Thank You

### CONSIDER THIS

#### Living Faith

*"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:20*

There is a lot of controversy these days about the nature of saving faith. Some are out there preaching that all you have to do to be saved is believe in Jesus Christ. Others are insisting that in addition to believing, one must exercise certain of various kinds of "works" in order to be saved. On the one hand are those who point to Ephesians 2:8 and following which tells us that we are saved by the grace of God, through faith, without any works at all on our part being necessary. On the other hand are those who point to this key verse in James and demand that true faith is always accompanied by appropriate works, which validate that saving faith. It is pointed out that our father Abraham was saved in the exercise of "working faith". Now, we are told that this was the system whereby those of the Old Testament economy were saved - by a faith which was accompanied by good works, such as keeping the law. Most of these able Bible teachers and readers are lovers of God and His Word, and are truly the saved of God, yet they cannot settle on a common understanding of what the Bible is talking about. The questions which are raised would seem to center upon the true nature of "faith", and whether the means of salvation has changed through the ages or has been essentially the same since the expulsion of mankind from the garden of Eden.

In considering the nature of faith, we need to understand that the meaning of the word is more complex than we may at first realize. For instance, if I say to you, "Let's go downstairs in a bit and eat dinner together," what do I mean when I say "eat?" Is my meaning, "Cram food into our mouths, chew and swallow it until our stomachs are full and churning, and we can't eat another bite?" This is the basic meaning of EAT if we want to be strictly literal. This is what my dog thinks when I ask her if she wants to eat. But if I want to explore what "eat" really means, I have to consider what happens to food before I cram it into my mouth, and after that job is done. There is preparation to be done before cramming it into my mouth - you did want that cake mixed up and baked and sliced and served before eating didn't you? - and there are natural bodily processes which we call digestion that are necessarily done after the fact of eating, or we will get very sick. They all make up what it means to "eat."

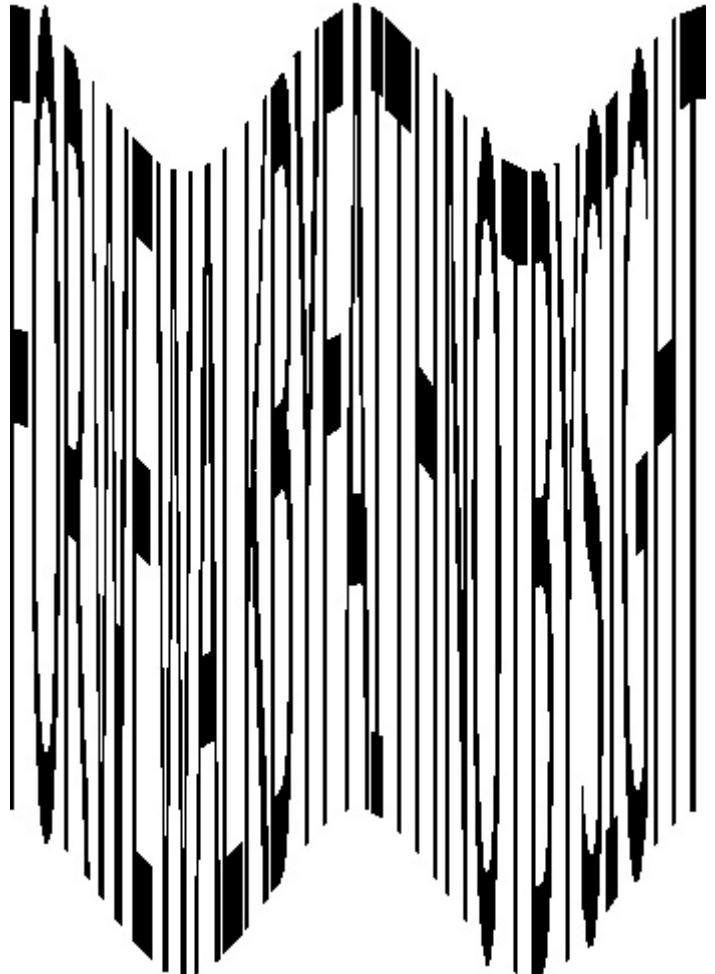
In the same way, there are various parts of faith that we are not even aware of at the moment when faith shines forth in our lives, such as repentance, submission, love, hope, endurance, etc.. If we try to consider or exercise all the various facets of faith at the moment of believing, we will become hopelessly bogged down in a legalistic quagmire, and fail in the very thing we are seeking to believe. When we look carefully at the verses cited above, we must either recognize a contradiction in the Word of God, which must be solved by some external mechanical means, or we can see the development of the various facets of real faith, which is more than mere intellectual

knowledge. The great thing about saving faith is that when it is held up before God by one who is simple-minded and simple-hearted, faith itself produces this fruit in the life of the believer. That fruit is called "works" by James, and is the result of faith in the life. (See Ephesians 4:10) That fruit is not - could never be - necessary for salvation, but it is a by-product of the effectual working of faith in the lives of those who believe. It has always been so. There has never been a time when man's own works could ever produce his salvation, or it could be said that - at least in part - he saved himself. From the fall of man God has always saved man by grace, through faith in the One who was slain on the Cross, from the foundation of the world. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

There are things which we do not fully comprehend in the Bible, but if we will diligently study the Word in faith, we'll understand them better by and by.

*Pastor Sam*

## THE PUZZLE PLACE



REFERENCE: \_\_\_\_\_