



Devotion
The Power of Unity
February 11, 2018



Dear Church,

1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Genesis 11:1, 4-6

The tower of Babel is a familiar story in the Old Testament. After the flood, Noah and his sons were fruitful and multiplied, populating the "whole earth." The people had one major commonality: they all spoke the same language. In the course of time, many of them moved into the same region and decided to build a city together. This city would have a tall tower, one so spectacular that they would be well-known for creating such an awesome sight. Their intentions concerned the Lord as He looked upon what they were doing. Once again, man was heading in a direction of self-serving, self-loving ambition that would only lead them farther away from God. God intervened and confused their speech. No one understood each other anymore, hence Babel means confusion. The tower of Babel represented the place where the people's language was no longer of one accord. God scattered the people abroad, with only those who understood each other staying together and multiplying.

Though this story is quite familiar, as I read through it again, I noticed something very interesting. In verse 6, the Lord recognizes that the people have a unity of such power that "nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." The NIV Bible uses the phrase "nothing will be impossible" for them. Even though these people were in sin, their unified focus gave them an extraordinary ability to achieve the impossible. How much more can we achieve if we work together as the body of Christ? The apostle Paul tells us that gifts were given individually to those in the body of Christ to work together as one for the whole body of Christ.

As Christians, we need to recognize our power in being unified together. When we stand together for a common purpose, surely nothing can stop us. Unfortunately, we too often stand alone. Pray about getting involved in your church ministries. How can you join forces with the body of Christ to help achieve certain goals? The only thing that usually stops us is fear. But don't worry, instead of God coming down to confuse our language, He will come down to help us better understand each other through His Word.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call Meeting – There will be a **call meeting** this Sunday, February 11th after the 11:00 Service. Please plan to attend. ~ *the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love Psalm 147:11*

Lenten Focus - Our Lenten season starts *this week* with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, continuing through March 21st. The 6-week series will focus on *petitions of the Lord's Prayer*. Starting with Ash Wednesday, soup suppers will begin at 6pm for the 6 weeks duration. You are encouraged to participate, as part of the body of Christ, for this special time of observance. The suppers will take its theme from the titled season, and include a bowl of soup and bread/crackers. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church for those who wish to contribute to the weekly meals.

Upcoming this week, Wednesday is a busy day!!

- **2nd Harvest** from 10-2. Helpers needed! Can you give an hour or two?
- Spanish; **Ash Wednesday** Worship at 5 pm- Pastor Flunker
- **Soup Supper** at 6pm – Hosted by Lydia Circle
- English; **Ash Wednesday** Worship at 7pm – Pastor Teske with Pastor Flunker

Men's Breakfast! – This Saturday the 17th, 10:00am at Shari's on 40th and Fruitvale. Men of Grace and Redeemer are all invited to come on out and show the ladies our strength! ~
Submitted by Mike Martin. *As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another Proverbs 27:17*

Box Tops for Grace - \$137 was raised from your participation in the Box Tops program for our school last year. There is a contest going on now until February 26th. Enter once a day at Boxtops4education.com. Be sure to add Grace school as your designated school. Grace could be the recipient of 5000 bonus box tops!

Coffee Hour – Starts at 10am

February 4th – Wanda Lennon

February 11th – Becca Hussman and Catherine Ball

February 18th – Connie Lehmann

February 25th - _____

Financial Reports – Grace Council met and it was decided there will be a change in the way the financial reports are published. Carol will make those directly available to the congregation on a monthly basis during the 1st or 2nd week.

Next Streams – Newsletter will be published by Thursday February 22nd. I will be out of town the 3rd weekend. Please give me your submissions by email; slwrgeg526@yahoo.com. Thank you!

CDC Flu Prevention Recommendations –

- 1) Get your vaccine – consult your Doctor for this
- 2) Avoid contact with sick persons, stay home if you are sick. Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs before contact with others
- 3) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer and rub over all surfaces until dry!!!
- 4) Consult your Doctor for the possible use of antiviral medicines.

Prayer List

Garland Hill- Healing from a stroke
Marilyn Smith – Health and strength
Sandra Sullivan – Healing for cancer
Doris Sumner – Recovery and strength
Corae Temple – Healing and strength

Mark Jankowski – Healing for cancer
Karen Jankowski – Healing for back
Irma Alderson – Comfort & Strength
Dee Ekstrom – Healing for cancer
Marilee Nolte – Healing a broken leg

Our Homebound Members

Irma Alderson
Carol Butler
Ewald Ehlers
Jack Lott
Marlen Rieker
Norm Campeau

Anne Rhine
Garland Hill
Dorothy Johnson
Ed Peterson
Esther Wachter