

CENTRAL CABLE

CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

CENTRALBLUEJAYS.ORG



STUDENTS WILL FIND THEIR CALLING IN GOD'S WORLD...

I hope every student at Central experiences disappointment... that leads to growth. Not unnecessary pain from bad choices or bad planning (though those, too, can hold lessons) but the kind of hard moments that prepare them for life. Because life is full of hard. For some students, the challenge will be social or emotional; for others, academic.

Our role as a school is to partner with you in setting a high standard and then coming alongside students with high support. Our approach is not an either-or between sink-or-swim or opting out. You're going to swim, and we'll teach you how, even if you're afraid of the water. You might get a bad grade, and we'll help you understand why, even if you don't think the grade was fair. You may be teased or say something unkind, and we'll walk with you toward better interactions, and there may be consequences for your responses. But we'll get through, and learn from it, together.

Books today talk often about grit. And much blame gets cast on bad parenting and social media, and those things matter, but underneath it all is this: many students (and adults) simply haven't been taught how to handle disappointment well.

Acknowledge what is. (reality)
Grieve what isn't. (emotions)
Change what you can. (agency)
Accept and move forward. (resolve)

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). Our students will manage disappointments and overcome hard things in God's world through an exceptional education delivered from a biblical worldview.

Jon De Groot, Superintendent



KNOWN PERSONALLY



DISCIPLINED INTENTIONALLY



CHALLENGED ACADEMICALLY

STUDENT DISCIPLESHIP

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory," Psalm 115:1

ELEMENTARY UPDATE:

The first chapel of the year is one of my favorite events. After spending a pretty good chunk of time over the summer planning and preparing, it's so exciting to see all the Elementary students together in one place. We spend some time worshipping together and then split off into our small groups for the year, so everyone can get to know each other a little bit or catch up on the summer. It's such a blessing to see all of the volunteers and teachers who give of their time and energy to help our Elementary students get to know God a little better.

I can't wait to see what God is going to do in and through our Elementary students this year as we talk about giving glory to God in everything we do. We will spend a lot of September getting to know the other members of our group and then jumping into talking about what it means to be a God worshipper. If you happen to be in the building, be sure to check out the pictures on our storyboard located by the Elementary office at the bottom of the front steps to see a glimpse of what's going on!

— *Mrs. Becky Berry; Academic Support Coordinator & Elementary Student Discipleship Coordinator*



Small Groups getting to know each other.



Middle School students at Retreat at Lonestar.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE:

Thank you to those who joined us for the 24-hour prayer initiative! We have already received several requests for more opportunities like this, and it was very encouraging to be surrounded by a community of believers where God's presence was evident.

As we continue into the school year, our focus remains: Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory! On Friday, August 29, the High School Worship Team led us in our first chapel of the year. Together, we are exploring what it means to steward the good gifts God has entrusted to us. This means learning to be idolatry discerners, sifting through the conflicting messages of the world, and order discoverers, uncovering God's intended design for our time, talents, and treasures.

The journey continued as our Middle and High School students headed off to their retreats the weekend of September 5–7. Retreats have historically been a special time of intentionally engaging with God through His Word and through worship. Join us in prayer for these powerful days ahead, using Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (3:14-19) to cover our students this year:

For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

— *Mr. Jon De Groot, Superintendent*



2025-26 YEARBOOKS

The 2025-26 yearbook is available to order! If you would like to order, click [here](#) or visit centralbluejays.org/resources.

LEAF RAKING

Our students will be serving the Prinsburg community by raking leaves on Friday, October 24.

We would love your help with the following:

1. Would you or someone you know benefit from this service?
2. Do you have trucks, trailers, and large tarps we could use?

If you can assist with any of the above, please contact the High School office at 320-978-8700 to sign up.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

We are starting a new series called Alumni Spotlights, where we will feature the stories and journeys of our graduates. If you or someone you know would be a great Alumni to highlight, please email Moriah Brower at moriahb@centralbluejays.org. We would love to celebrate the amazing things our Alumni are doing.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

We are excited to welcome our area pastors on Friday, September 26, for a time of fellowship and to celebrate their work in our students' lives. If you are a pastor or know of a pastor who would like to attend, please email Kate Link at katel@centralbluejays.org.



BUS DRIVER NEEDED

We are looking for a morning-only bus driver for the school year. If you are interested in learning more about the position, including the tuition credits benefit, please contact Jon De Groot at jondg@centralbluejays.org.

MEET THE TEACHER



Mrs. Jerve
1st Grade Teacher

Get to Know Mrs. Jerve

Family:

Jon, Lisa, Lucas (7th), Isaac (4th), Ella (1st)

Why did you choose to teach at Central, and what do you enjoy most?

10 years ago, I felt called to teach at Central and continue teaching students from a Christian perspective. I love the “family feel” of our school and the way my own children have the word of God poured into them each day.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy reading, listening to audiobooks, and spending time at the lake and outdoors.

What is your deep hope for your students while in your classroom?

My deep hope for my students is that they feel a loved and valued part of our class family and God’s family by shining the light of Christ while sharing and exploring His creation together.

Prayer requests?

I always appreciate prayers for safety for my kids and I as we drive to and from school, as well as good health. For my students, my request would be for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts to develop kingdom citizens, a good work ethic, and that they would grow in their learning in all areas.

This or That?

Coffee or Tea - Coffee

Movie or Book - Book

Beach or Mountains - I love them both!! Too hard to choose...

Pencil & Paper or Electronic - Depends on the situation, but I love a good pen!

Cats or Dogs - Dogs...we have a spoiled yellow lab named Max.

Fruits or Vegetables - Fruit

Sweet or Salty - I’ve got a sweet tooth!

Farm or City - Wide open spaces, but the city is nice every once in a while.

Weekends or Weekdays - Weekends

Morning Person or Night Owl - To quote a great meme, “I’m not an early bird or a night owl...I’m some form of permanently exhausted pigeon.”



➤➤➤ HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

Hi, my name is Jennifer Post, and I am a Senior here at Central. I have been attending Retreat since Middle School. Every year, I have grown deeper in my faith and have connected with the Lord throughout the years. This year was my last Retreat while in High School. I am glad I was able to attend with my friends, and we were able to grow closer to the Lord and towards each other.

This year, we had the privilege to hear from Jarvis Glanzer. Jarvis is a previous Central graduate and a good friend to many in our community. He is a pastor at a church in Stillwater, MN, and helps teens in their walk with Christ. Jarvis challenged each student at Retreat this year to surrender something that has been distracting our walks with Jesus. I was reminded of God's goodness throughout the weekend!

I am thankful I could spend this time at Retreat reflecting on my walk with the Lord, and I am very thankful for each of the counselors who were there to help all of us, and direct us in the right direction. I can't wait to see what God has planned for each student at Central as we go out and declare the good news of Jesus Christ!



➤➤➤ MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

The speaker at the Middle School Retreat this year was Matt Hoekstra. Matt graduated from Central in 2004 and has three children who currently attend Central. He went to Bethel and got his Master's Degree in Psychology, and currently works as a financial advisor.

Students were encouraged to live without regrets by building strong relationships, standing up for others, and being the kind of friend they hope to have. Together, they dug into God's will for our lives—to love Him and love others—even when it isn't always easy. From team-building challenges and powerful times of worship and meaningful messages, this Retreat was filled with growth and connection.



"Retreat was so much fun! We had a lot of great activities, the speaker, my uncle, was good, and it was all around a fun experience." - Afton Meyer, 8th grader at Central



Welcome

BILL HODGE

**Family:**

My wife April and I have 4 kids: Charlie, Wesley, Emmelia, Henry and our dog Nelly

Position:

Academic Support Coach & Faith Formation Coordinator

Church:

Willmar Church of the Nazarene

Hobbies:

Sports & Recreation, coaching and/or officiating. Listening to music and leading music by the way of drums in Worship Bands. Reading diverse material that broaden my base and deepen my faith. I also enjoy connecting dots in conversations over creative coffee concoctions.

How will you use your relationship with Jesus in your role at Central?

My position is distinctly unique capitalizing on the scholastic side of the academic experience, in addition to the biblical discipleship element ... both within the foundational and developmental core of the student body. I intend on using my daily interactions with the students to live out, the truths I have found to be evident within scripture and the experiences that have accompanied my journey walking with Christ.



JOIN US IN WELCOMING BILL TO BLUEJAY NATION

Welcome

GRETCH EMAHISER

Family:

Married to Gene since 10.12.24! I have 3 adult children and am Nana G to 4 grandsons in CA. We have a pit bull named Buddy. Some may see a resemblance to my younger sister, Heather Flies, who has spoken at CMCS chapel a few times.

Position:

Elementary & Middle School Administrative Assistant

Church:

We attend a home church and Living Hope.

Hobbies:

Love music and football! SKOL, Vikings! I used to be an avid scrapbooker.

How will you use your relationship with Jesus in your position at Central:

My passion is elementary school, but I have also worked at a middle school. I trust God will allow me to minister to students, parents, staff and the community through this position. My middle name is Joy, so I hope to bring joy to all each day!



JOIN US IN WELCOMING GRETCH TO BLUEJAY NATION



Earn for tuition

BUY GIFT CARDS OR
SHOP ONLINE



RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

SAVE ON TUITION BY JOINING TRIP

Want to turn your everyday spending into tuition savings? Join Central's RaiseRight (TRIP) program and start buying gift cards, shopping online, or dining at restaurants to earn up to 20% back every time.

You don't have to be a current family to participate! Have a Central family that you want to support? Or thinking ahead for future children who will attend Central? All the money you earn can be credited to them!

Whether you're at home or on the go, RaiseRight gives you the flexibility to earn with eGift cards, reloadable cards, and a [mobile app](#).

Visit centralbluejays.org/trip for details!

THE FOLLOWING GIFTS CARDS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE:

Almich's Market, Cashwise, Cenex, Cub Foods, Culver's, Green Mill, Grizzly's, Jake's, Kwik Trip, Lulu Beans, McDonald's, Middle Fork, Oneil's, Pizza Ranch, Ruff's, Target, Walmart, Walt's

When setting up a RaiseRight account, use enrollment code: B72B897C236

LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE

This year, we launched a new Student Volunteer Program designed to immerse our High School students in the heart of our mission—living a life of service. It offers meaningful opportunities to instill core values such as service, responsibility, and community involvement. Over the last two weeks, we've seen our first set of volunteers step up and help with lawn care, office support, and working the concessions stands.



MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES



Terry & Kendra Ahrenholz
Easton (4K)



Rodger & Angela Bradford
Wyatt (5th)



Neil & Hannah Brouwer
Bria (4K)



Lee Bowen & Adam Rybaski
Wyatt (4th)



Luke & Keena Covert
Brooks (4K)



Cody & Tara Erickson
Evelyn (6th)



Nate & Jessica Gerdes
Landri (1st) and Lydia (4K)



Bill & April Hodge
Emmelia (11th) and Henry (4th)



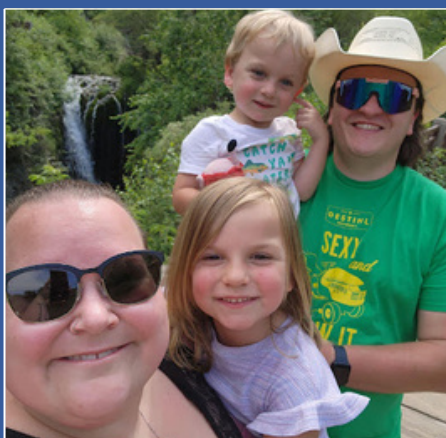
Sha Ree Htoo & Air Cher Moo
Kler (4th), Robbin (1st), and Mu (K)



Matt & Megan Karlgaard
Marshall (4K)



Jeff & Irene Mellema
Hudson (8th) and Jade (6th)



Jeff & Heather Negen
Isla (4K)

MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES

MEET THE NEW CENTRAL FAMILIES



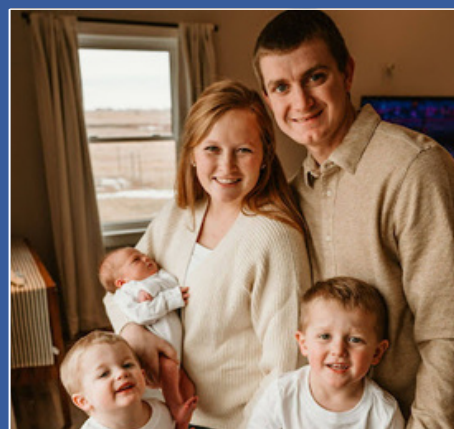
Evan & Laura TeBrake
Calder (4K)



Brandon & Hannah Van Der Puy
Hudson (4K)



Christopher & Justina Van Dyken
Ella (4K)



Lucas & Karisa Van Eps
Silas (4K)



Tim & Katie Wiens
Eliot (9th)



Ryan & Kendra Wubben
Sadie (4K)

SEPTEMBER

PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Pray for a safe and restful Labor Day	2 Pray our students use their talents for God's glory.	3 Thank God for freedom to openly worship Him.	4 Pray to help our students see God in all they do at Central.	5 Pray over Middle School Retreat	6 Pray over High School Retreat
7 Continue to pray over High School Retreat	8 Pray for our 6 th graders as they navigate Middle School.	9 Pray for a Central family.	10 Give thanks for a community that supports Christian Education.	11 Prayer for Central Alumni	12 Middle School Teacher, Sarah Brouwer	13 Pray for our building and grounds crew
14 Pray that God will use Central as a tool for His purpose	15 Advancement Director, Kate Link	16 Mrs. McCoy and all her work in the IT department	17 Thankful for New to You volunteers.	18 Pray for new Central families	19 District 815 Staff	20 Pray over local farmers and harvest
21 Give thanks for our parent volunteers	22 Academic Support Coordinator, Becky Berry	23 Bus Driver, Wade Buss	24 Principal, Dean Stier	25 Pray for our Cross Country athletes and coaches	26 Pray for our local Pastors and their families	27 Pray over the student's friendships
28 Give thanks for a day of rest	29 Prayer over the School Board Meeting	30 Head Cook, Jane Wubben	Oct 1 High School Teacher, Jake Abrams	2 Thankful for our custodial staff.	3 Pray for our 9 th graders as they navigate High School.	

Central Minnesota Christian School **BOARD MINUTES**

July 28, 2025

Members Present: Paul Leverington, Luke Mulder, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Joe Vander Ark, Mitch Schwindt, Jon De Groot, Chris Schlegel

Members Absent: Heidi Graves

Devotions and Prayer: Joe VA read a devotional about how we are recipients and instruments of God's ministry. Our lives are ministry and belong to God.

1. Prayer Calendar: Sarah VB gave an overview and will get more information to us monthly about specifics to pray for.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Sarah VB

Second- Mitch S

- a. Board Committee Minutes
- b. Board meeting minutes from June
- c. New to You Financial Statements from May 2025

3. Administrative reports reviewed for information.

4. Advancement Report: Kate Link gave the Director of Advancement report

- a. Exceeded Annual Fund: \$966,269 Goal by 54%
- b. Harvest Festival Goal: \$98,000 Actual: \$106,694
- c. Church offering Goal: \$40,000 Actual: \$50,982
- d. Legacy Dinner Goal: \$27,875 Actual: \$39,235
- e. Freedom Fun Days: \$162,000 Actual: \$170,042

To date: Raised \$380,079.80. Praise God for support for the mission of Central Minnesota Christian School!

*One other note: Kate has received positive comments so far from parents and students about the new volunteering program for High School students.

5. Handbook Approval: Jon DG- MSP

- a. This is approval for the upcoming 2025-26 school year
- b. Reviewed the changes/updates made for this year which will be sent out to parents
- c. Motion to approve- Paul L
- d. Second- Ryan M

6. Committee Roster: Appointed Chris S the chair of Advancement Committee-MSP

- a. Motion: Matt H
- b. Second: Paul L

7. Committee Work Plans:

- a. Jon DG gave an overview of the process of setting the work plan of the committees
 - i. Committee coordinates with the Leadership team member to collaborate
 - ii. Financial Sustainability and Development message plans will help guide these committee work plans.
- b. Joe VA plans to get all committee chairs together to be sure all work plans are coordinated. Hope to have this done before the August meeting.
 - i. Hope to approve work plans at the August Board meeting
 - ii. Janey Landberg will send out dates to consider

8. Book Club: Guiding Schools to Flourish: Chapter 23:

- a. Postponed due to weather

9. June 2025 Board Action Items:

- a. Reviewed for completion, deletion, or continuation

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Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

10. July 2025 Board Action Items:

- a. Committee Chairs should update committee rosters by August meeting
- b. Allot time to discuss about New 2 You Task Force continuation

11. Closing prayer: Ryan M

12. Meeting adjourned- MSP

- a. Motion: Chris S
- b. Second: Paul L

August 25, 2025

Members Present: Paul Leverington, Heidi Graves, Luke Mulder, Matt Hoekstra, Christy Groen, Sarah Van Beek, Ryan Moorlag, Joe Vander Ark, Mitch Schwindt, Jon De Groot, Chris Schlegel

Devotions and Prayer: Heidi G began with prayer and read devotions from Proverbs 31 Ministries: passage was Phil 4:6-7. "Calming My Back-to-School Mama's Heart." When we worry about all of the things at the start of the school year, we are reminded to bring it to God in prayer." Matt H also opened with prayer asking for our Board plans for this year to come under God's authority.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda MSP

Motion- Mitch S

Second- Heidi G

- a. Board Committee Minutes
- b. Board meeting minutes from July 2025
- c. New to You Financial Statements from June 2025

Discussion was had related to the Finance Committee process/timing for presenting the revised budget, need for working on having a building fund, and a healthy goal of operating expenses on hand.

2. Committee Reports on Work Plans and Rosters

a. Executive Committee

i. Superintendent performance review & development support (change is to move Jon DG's review to earlier, taking time at the retreat)

ii. Board retreat (earlier than last year)

iii. Constituency communication

iv. Financial sustainability accountability

b. Governance Committee

i. Strengthen Central Board governance model-mission oriented in order to make decisions

ii. Improve & execute Board candidate pool & nomination process to reflect our members and strengthen Board overall (can use the Governance Committee to vet a new candidate for a committee member)

iii. Finalize steps to propose changes to election process (constitutional amendment, etc)

iv. Annual Meeting prep for election, ballot, etc.

v. Complete Governance manual

c. Finance Committee

i. Financial reporting and planning

ii. Financial sustainability

iii. Tuition agreements/financial support application

iv. Surplus funds allocation/depreciation

d. Advancement Committee

i. Will work on finishing this to match with Kate Link's work plan

ii. Will be brought for approval to September Board meeting

Continue next page...

Central Minnesota Christian School

BOARD MINUTES

Continued...

- e. Education Committee
 - i. Increase academic excellence through curriculum review
 - ii. Policy review
 - iii. Enhance educational experience through special projects
 - iv. Increase academic excellence through supporting academic guidance
 - v. Monitor academic excellence through key markers
 - vi. Deliver exceptional education through partnership with CESA
3. Jon DG work plan
 - a. Staff communication/operationally present
 - b. Board Engagement
 - c. Chapel Discipleship/planning execution
 - d. Donor/Constituency Development
 - e. Personal/Professional Development
4. Motion to Approve the committee work plans with future input from the Advancement Committee to approve their work plan next month-MSP
 - a. Motion: Paul L
 - b. Second: Ryan M
5. Motion to approve the Superintendent work plan as presented by Jon DG-MSP
 - a. Motion: Sarah VB
 - b. Second: Ryan M
6. Book Club: Guiding Schools to Flourish: Chapter 23: "Triple Braided Leadership: Board Chair, Head of School, Business Manager" Christy G
 - a. Possibly add to Advancement Committee work plan a task related to being more familiar with the exiting and entering families
 - b. Would be good to have Pam Harrington join with Jon DG and Joe VA's meeting once every other month
7. New to You Task Force Continuation- Ryan M
3 buckets of tasks:
 - a. Support development of New to You annual budget
 - b. Partner with New to You leadership on financial sustainability plans
 - c. As needed support: Partner with New to You and Central Leadership on projects related to planning, operations, maintenance, capital expenditures, etc.
 - d. Task force to do: bring recommendation to Board on what the New to You team should be/do
8. New families report from Jon DG
9. July 2025 Board Action Items:
 - a. Secretary will review for completion, deletion or continuation and send reminder emails if needed
10. August 2025 Board Action Items:
 - a. Bring recommendation to Board in September on what the New to You team should be/do- (Ryan M and New to You Task force)
 - b. Meal and devotions in September- (Ryan M)
 - c. Check list of Board assignments at the bottom of the agenda for classroom visits, New to You, etc-(all Board members)
 - d. Prayer calendar will be sent out for Board members to pray for specific students- Sarah VB
 - e. Pam H will be invited to join with Joe VA and Jon DG on one of their weekly meetings each month as per the Board book discussion
11. Closing prayer: Ryan M
12. Meeting adjourned- MSP
 - a. Motion: Matt H
 - b. Second: Mitch S



STORE UPDATE

Record-breaking August! We are so excited about the strong start to our new fiscal year and are eager to see what our biggest months of the year have in store for us. We've been so blessed to see God at work in everyday situations...seeing the final numbers is an amazing bonus.

This can be a stressful time of year as our summer team members leave, and "back to school" means the start of COLD SEASON. As we look ahead, if you have the opportunity to help us with sorting, processing, and/or cashiering, it goes a long way in easing some pressure and keeping us on track. Thank you, everyone!

We are looking for a Closing Shift Lead in Retail, .6FTE or an average of 24 hours/week. Give us a call if you are interested! 320-231-1850

— Kristin Poortvliet; Director of Thrift Store Operations

August Monthly Report:

Total Sales: **\$97,600** Last Year: **\$92,300** Contribution to Central: **\$15,000**

Number of Processed Items: **27,000** Sell-Through Rate: **68%** Volunteer Hours: **462**

TRIP Schedule



SAVE THE DATE

October 2-3	No School - Heartland Break
October 7	Picture Retakes
October 21	HS Fall Concert
October 24	End of Q1/Noon Dismissal
November 6-7	P/T Conferences
November 7	Noon Dismissal
November 11	Veterans Day Assembly
November 22	Harvest Festival
November 26	Noon Dismissal
November 27-30	No School - Thanksgiving Break

CENTRAL CABLE

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MISSION

To provide a Christ-centered, quality education to equip students for a life of service.

VISION

Surrounded by our community of believers where God's presence is evident, our students will find their calling in God's world through an exceptional education, delivered from Biblical worldview. Students will be known personally, disciplined intentionally, and challenged academically.

VALUES



Better Together: God created us in his image to live in Community. Therefore, we honor and care for the well-being and success of all. We value encouragement and helpful communications while speaking the truth in love. We celebrate the individual gifts and character of each member and provide an environment for them to struggle and grow. (Rom 12:4-5; Gen 1:27; Col 3:12-14)



Building Trust: We strive for Excellence in our character and proven-ness in our work. We do our best to earn respect by exceeding expectations, maintaining high standards, challenging complacency, and aiming for full potential. (Matt 12:12; Titus 2:7)



Being Transformed: We value whole-person Growth and practice continuous improvement through learning, personal reflection, and Christian development. We are open to new ideas and seek God's kingdom dream for our lives and the world. (Rom 12:2; II Cor 5:17; Ps 51:10)



Bridging the Gap: Through Service, we identify needs and address them. We see God-possibilities and obediently follow the Spirit to make them our reality. In humility we give of ourselves, investing in the cause of Christian education and thus, the future. (I Peter 4:10; Col 3:23; Is 58:10)

204 SCHOOL STREET; PO BOX 98 PRINSBURG, MN 56281