

DECEMBER 2023

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

In Person Services: 9:30am
LiveStream: 9:30am
Cable Channel 12: 5:15pm



IMPORTANT NOTE:

PLEASE be aware of the handicap parking areas on the south side of the church building! Extra handicap spaces are available for those that are in need of them. Please be respectful of those in need.

Watch the website & current bulletins for updates on events!



Phone: 712.472.3729

Email: frchurch@premieronline.net

Website: www.rockrapidsfrc.org

512 South Union Street, Rock Rapids, IA 51246



LIBRARY NEWS



EVER CONSTANT- by Tracie Peterson. Book three of the Treasures of Nome Series. On the surface, Whitney Powell is happy working with her sled dogs and welcoming the new additions to her family through her sisters marriages and an upcoming birth. But her life is full of complications, including an estranged father, that have her on the edge of losing control. Growing up, she was the strong sister, and she can't give that up now. When villagers in the outlying areas come down with a horrible sickness, Dr. Peter Cameron turns to Whitney and her dogs for help navigating the deep snow, and they become close while ministering the sick together. Peter has long recognized her finer qualities but is troubled by the emotions and secrets she keeps buried within. He wants to help but wonders if she is more of a risk than his heart can take. As sickness spreads throughout Nome and another man courts Whitney, she and Peter will discover that sometimes it is only in weakness that you find strength.

HEART OF THE MIDWIFE. Four Historical stories by four authors. Four midwives overcome prejudices and superstitions of their profession and find a love of her own during the late 1800's.

~Love Charm by Cynthia Hickey. Ozark Mountains, 1868. Bound by a common bond of wanting help the Missouri Hill people they've grown to love, Phoebe Hudson, socialite-turned-midwife, and Luke Morris, the schoolteacher, find themselves mediators in a family feud.

~Love's Rebirth by Darlene Franklin. Denver, 1871. Dr. Vaughan Strahan, a war veteran, wants to work with expectant mothers so others don't die like his wife and child, but there is already a midwife working in the old mining district whose approval he is determined to win.

~If Not for Grace by Patty Smith Hall. New York City, 1889. After her friend's death in childbirth, Grace Sullivan converts a rundown apartment building into a haven for immigrant families preparing for the birth of a child. But when the city threatens to close her down, her only hope is to ask for help from an unlikely source-her former friend, Patrick O'Leary.

~Between Two Worlds by Marilyn Turk. New Orleans, 1890. When trained nurse Camille Duval moves to New Orleans to practice midwifery, she runs into resistance from the local voodoo queen. How can Camille convince the expectant mothers of the city to trust her instead of relying on superstitions? Can Camille enlist the support of the young family physician, Julian Charbonnet, who doesn't seem interested in "women's affairs"?

ATLAS of Lyon County

DIRECTOR'S CUT: "EQUIPPING THE SAINTS"

At ATLAS, our goal is to "Help the hurting, Equip the Saints, and to unite the community." We truly believe that any person can be a Saint. Have you ever noticed that Jesus made disciples of those that were deemed "less than" by the rulers and church leaders? We all have a calling to use our God-given abilities, but how do we know what those abilities are?

If you find yourself questioning what God's purpose is for your life, I will first suggest that you pray to God for guidance. Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Everyone has certain talents or God-given gifts that they are skilled in. For example, some people are very open and relatable and know how to make people feel relaxed. Some people are gifted entrepreneurs, educators, or parents.

These talents can be more than hobbies or even careers. These gifts can be used for the glory of God. Using your gifts for God can allow you to be a part of advancing the kingdom of God, helping others, and improving the world around you.

One way that you could be a part of God's kingdom is to be a mentor with us. Jesus was willing to go off his intended path to be with people who needed him. As we imitate God, we should be seeking to develop mentoring relationships. Mentoring is simply sharing your life with others to develop & grow closer to God. It is described as the power of connection, of entering a life with the energy of Christ, of seeing someone's heart with the mind of Christ, of touching someone's soul with the love of Christ. This is what ATLAS is grounded in.

OUR STAFF

Lost, But Found Thrift Store

- Pat Long
- Judy Gaspar
- Judy DeKam
- Elise Kahl
- Kara Blomgren
- Dionne Jansma
- Harlan Pals
- Kara Van Den Top
- Ariel Stahlecker
- Alyssa Slade

ATLAS of Lyon County Office

- Kami Madsen
- Dustin Rodger

ATLAS Board Members

- Rick Attig
- Denise Reck
- Marilyn Mammenga
- Phyllis Borer
- Marc Jensen
- Tricia Blomgren

ATLAS is also blessed to have a great set of regular volunteers. These individuals help ATLAS with many tasks and their value cannot be overstated.



ATLAS volunteers were the recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award in the Fall of 2023.



Do You Truly Know ATLAS of Lyon County?

Our Statement of Faith tells us that we are called by God to partner with everyone He brings to us so that we might bring the very presence of Jesus Christ to the hurting and lost. Understanding this, we are devoted to working side by side with all people who are committed to helping others attain truth, love, and self-control.

Non-negotiable core principles comprise the heart of ATLAS. **First, each ATLAS is Christ-Centered.** Without Christ, nothing ATLAS does is of any worth. We are a prayer-based ministry that seeks to join God in what He is already doing in our communities. Our ATLAS missions are spirit-led. This means that we rely solely on the Holy Spirit providing the needed wisdom and counsel to transform lives.

ATLAS is grounded in mentoring. God demonstrates the importance of living in community by giving us the example of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was willing to veer from the intended path so that He could be with people who needed him. As we seek to imitate God, we should be seeking to develop mentoring relationships.

Each ATLAS is locally governed and supported. Our board is made up of representatives from many Lyon County locations. It is through the donations that ATLAS can provide person-centered services to many families throughout the area.

ATLAS is inter-denominational, meaning that we work hard to connect with each church in our county. Christ's body refers to the entire body of believers, not just one specific denomination.

How Can You Be Involved?

There are many ways that you, your church, or your family can be involved in the ATLAS Ministry.

One way is to simply **pray for our Ministry.** The Holy Spirit can make miracles happen and our staff & volunteers can use the strength of prayer to help us deliver God's message.

Donation of goods. Whether that is in the form of new school supplies or Christmas gifts for our current programs or in the form of your gently used clothing or household items for the thrift store, we are grateful for each donation.

Donation for funding. As a 503(c)(3), we rely on donations to develop and run our programming. All donations are tax-deductible. If you are interested in this option and would like to know more about where & how donations are used, please reach out to our Dustin to schedule a time to meet. Director@atlasoflyoncounty.org

If you are a member of a church or community organization, the ATLAS Director, Dustin Rodger, would enjoy an opportunity to come to meet you, get to know the expectations & needs of your area, and to speak to your group. ATLAS can best serve the members of Lyon County by inviting the citizens of our county to have direct access to the director. If your group would be willing to visit, please email or call the director.

Bread of Life dates:

Dec. 20, 2023

Jan. 24, 2024

Feb. 28, 2024

Located in George, Rock Rapids & West Lyon.

Siouxland Youth for Christ is starting City Life in Rock Rapids!

God has opened doors for us to partner with Atlas Ministries and use some of their generous space to **open a teen center to reach youth** in Rock Rapids with the message of Hope in Jesus.

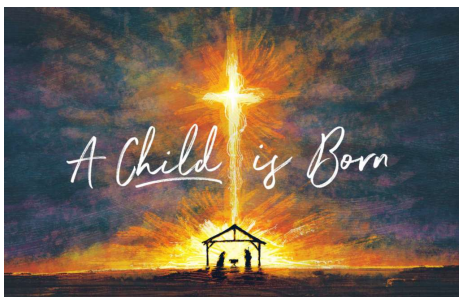
In January, we will be inviting youth 6-12th grades to come hang out at our City Life Teen Center. This will be a multi-purpose ministry to serve the community, offering an environment to build relationships and instill strong values, morals, and ethics in students.

Stay tuned for open days and hours. If you have questions, contact Amanda Bucher at 478-293-7176.

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUTH FOR CHRIST IN ROCK RAPIDS:



SCAN ME



Matthew 2:10-12. When they [the wise men] saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

To learn more about our programming & mission, please follow these sites:

Facebook: ATLAS of Lyon County
712-472-9016

Facebook: ATLAS: Lost, But Found Thrift Store
712-472-0117

www.atlasoflyoncounty.org

What's in a Name?

Luke 1:31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

The very first Advent season began with a visit from the angel to Mary and then to Joseph. Both visits included instructions to name their baby Jesus and a reason for the name. Jesus would be the Savior of His people, and He would be known as the Son of God. We name all sorts of things for the purpose they were designed. Names carry meaning. Sometimes we name buildings, facilities, or rooms for people to know what types of activities the space is designed to host. An example would be the naming of a community building. The building is specifically used to host community events such as weddings, graduations, soup suppers, or whatever else might benefit the community.

Over the last several months our church has grown, and we have had to be creative to find space for various ministries to meet. God has blessed our church leaders with the challenge to find alternative meeting spaces for a host of ministries due to our lack of space. We have several rooms that are now multipurpose spaces. We began to notice these room names were outdated or had little to do with the purpose of the space. We began to prayerfully consider different names for rooms that host a variety of ministries. One of the first rooms we decided needed a name change was the Adult Choir Room, now called the David Room. We made the change because the space is used nearly every day for ministries like consistory meetings, My Day, adult choir practice, etc. We believe the David Room reflects the purpose of the room. David was a musician and a righteous leader.

Some of the other name changes include the Connections Room, Martha Room, Elijah Room, and the War Room. The rooms are used by multiple ministries for a variety of purposes. The Connection room is for small groups to connect over a cup of coffee. The War room is a prayer room that hosts our several prayer ministries such as our Sunday School prayer warriors, who gather to pray during Sunday School and Mom's in Prayer. The Martha room is where we host many small group meetings with access to a kitchen; Martha is known for her relationship with Jesus and her willingness to serve. The Elijah room is where children worship during the week (maybe singing the song, Days of Elijah) and larger groups can gather for prayer, planning, and ministry events. All of these are reflected in the life and ministry of Elijah in some way. Understanding why we are making these small changes helps lower our anxiety about the change and focus on our mission to Share the Good News of Jesus. Over the next several months, we will do our best as a church to communicate any of these changes and to help you understand the reason.

What's in a Name? During this Christmas Season, I encourage you to take time to read your Bible and notice the names of Jesus; names such as Immanuel, Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Ask the question, what is the purpose of that name? Why is that name given to Jesus? My prayer is that we are a people of God who ask questions, seek understanding, and grow to become like Jesus more every day.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Steve

Coming Soon

in 2024

Adult Discipleship Classes:

- *Digging Deeper; How to Study the Bible**
January 13
- *Heidelberg Catechism Revisited**
January 7,14,21,28
- *Can of Worms Wednesdays**
February 7,14,21,28
- *Parenting Adult Children**
TBD
- *Bible Study "Proverbs-Pathways to Wisdom"**
April 3,10,17,24

Adult Engagement Opportunities:

- *ResGen Men's Summit**
February 3
- *Freedom's Gate Worship/Service**
February 18
- *Clue Cafe ; Fun, Food and Fellowship Event**
February 25
- *Grace Covenant Mission Trip**
March 2-9
- *Grace Reigns Mission Trip**
March 16-22



Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30PM @ FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Communion will be served
(gluten free options available at the welcome center)



Midweek Meal Menu

December 6:

Roast Beef & Mashed potatoes

December 13:

Hot Ham & Cheese

December 20:

Chicken Noodle Soup

GIRLS LEAGUE *Christmas* NIGHT IN

Dec 10 from 4-6pm in the youth room

Wear your favorite Christmas pajamas (or something comfy)
Hot Cocoa Bar / Food / Gift Exchange-(Fun Socks)
Games/ Christmas Cookie Decorating



Guys Night Outing

Unleash your inner lumberjack

Dec 10 - leaving church at 4pm
to head to Sioux Falls

- Axe Throwing
- Giant Jenga
- Ring Toss
- Other games

Bring money for supper to follow

RSVP to Kaitlin by Wednesday, December 6

A
LIGHT
still SHINES

Christmas Cantata

December 17th during worship





December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 4:00pm Sunday School Christmas program	4 7pm Young Adult Bible Study	5 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	6 9-11am MOPS	7	8 8am Men's Bible Study	9 9am Community Choir practice
10 9am Evangelism Committee Mtg. 2-4pm Christmas Caroling 4pm Girls Night	11 7pm Young Adult Bible Study	12 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	13 9am Staff Meeting 7pm Consistory Meeting	14 6pm Peace Circle	15 8am Men's Bible Study	16 9am Community Choir practice 9-11am Cantata practice
17 Christmas Cantata	18 7pm Young Adult Bible Study	19 6:30pm Grace Circle 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	20 9-11am MOPS	21	22 8am Men's Bible Study	23
24 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship *communion will be served*	25 7pm Young Adult Bible Study	26 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	27	28	29 8am Men's Bible Study	30
31						

Sunday Morning Worship

@9:30am

*Livestreaming starts @
9:25am*

Cable Channel 12 @ 5:15pm

Praise team practices:

Sundays @ 8:15am & or
Wednesdays @7pm

Youth practice: 6pm Wed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Following Worship

Children & Worship

During Worship

Club 512

Wednesday 2:30-5pm

Meal to follow 5-6:15

Jr. RCYF 6:30pm

Sr. RCYF 8pm

Moms in Prayer

Traditional: Sundays @ 7pm

Traditional: Mondays @
5:45am

College & Careers:

Mondays @ 5pm

College & Careers: Tuesdays

@8:30am

Traditional: Tuesdays

@8:30am

*Watch the website and bulletin for updates rockrapidsfrc.org

Common Ground (before worship)

- 3) Jean & Ruben Fick
- 10) Girls League
- 17) Edie Korthals & Glenda Hellenga
- 24) Sawyer & Sara Hrdlicka
- 31) Bob & Barb Dreke

Coffee Break (following worship)

- 3) Bob & Barb Tilstra
- 10) Girls League
- 17) Dave Altman Family
- 24) Randy & Cindy Bosch
- 31) Dwayne & Sharon Postma

Nursery

- 3) Joel Vis Family & Jacob Van Aartsen
- 10) Wendy & Caitlin Huisman
- 17) Kay & Melanie Wynia
- 24) NO Nursery Christmas Eve
- 31) Ashley Kruse & Aubree Boender

Sound System

- 3) Matt Kock
- 10) Curt Dieren
- 17) Keith Van Beek
- 24) Sawyer Hrdlicka
- 31) Curt Dieren

Video Taping

- 3) Eric Arnold
- 10) Justin Groen
- 17) Breyden Dieren
- 24) Brad Rypkema
- 31) Randy Bosch

Proclaim Presenter

- 3) Caitlin Huisman
- 10) Elise Kahl
- 17) Lincoln Kock
- 24) Thane Jansma
- 31) Elise Kahl

Medical Assistant

- 3) Brenda Van Hofwegen
- 10) Scott Hunt
- 17) April DeWit
- 24) Jean Fick
- 31) Kristi Metzger

Greeters

- 3) N) Colin & Rachelle Johnsen S) Bob & Barb Dreke SE) Dale & Jill Jansma
- 10) N) Bruce & Rachel Eckenrod S) Jerry & Jill Pytleski SE) Roger & Carol Oliver
- 17) N) Glenda Hellenga S) Luke & Danielle Grooters SE) Dusty & Julie Timmerman
- 24)
- 31) N) John & Peggy Metzger S) Craig & Julie DeRuyter SE)?

Sunday School Cookies:

- 3) Kellie Menning
- 10) Laureen Schram
- 17) Wendy Huisman
- 24) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 31) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Prayer Leader:

- 3) Cheryl Van Beek
- 10) Fred Tilstra
- 17) Lisa Vande Stouwe
- 24) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 31) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Hall Monitor:

- 3) Josie Moser
- 10) Myranda Moser
- 17) Katie Boender
- 24) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 31) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

December Work Group

- Allison Thiessen
- Amy Hartter
- Audra Klinkenborg
- Audrey Postma
- Hedy Kruger
- Kayla Van Wyhe
- Julie DeRuyter
- Karyn Boer -Bars
- Laura Beyenhof
- Lesa Hommes
- Marlene Mellema- Bars
- Peggy Metzger
- ReNae Leuthold
- Rhona Snyder
- Stacy Dieren
- Wendy Huisman

Volunteer List: **December 2023**

