

January

Salem Family,

This past fall, the Salem elders renewed the 'Elder's Corner'. These communications are meant to be a glimpse into recent activities of the elders, with encouragement, prayer requests, and updates. As the new year gets going, I think there are a lot of new things to be excited about.

On a personal level, we have added a new family member. Our oldest daughter, Olivia, was married to Austin Gubbels on January 15th at Salem. It was a beautiful day and the new bride and groom beamed with joy. We are excited about what God will do in and through this new couple.

January has also brought a new sermon series entitled "For the City" diving into the book of Jeremiah. At Salem, we long to be a church that seeks the welfare of the city where God has placed us. Jeremiah 29:7 says, "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

When I was in college, my mentor got me started on a Bible memorization plan. One of the first verses I memorized was Jeremiah 9:23-24. It says, "This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord."

As we continue this new year we would love to encourage you to be praying for the welfare of our city. Pray that we would seek the flourishing of our neighborhoods, workplaces, and community. Pray also that through Jeremiah we could have a deeper understanding of the Lord and not rely on or boast in our own strength, riches, or wisdom.

We would also like to ask you to continue to be in prayer for wisdom for the Fargo campus. We have some short-medium term rental options we are considering as a way to maximize the kingdom impact of that campus while we work on developing our longer-range vision this year. Once that vision is clear we will be in a better position to make a longer-term decision about the Fargo campus. Thank you for praying for us in this decision-making process.

Thanks to all who made it out to January's Share & Prayer time in spite of the cold evening. It is always encouraging to hear about what God is doing and come together in prayer! We, as elders, will continue to host these events twice a year. God is amazing and we are excited to see what other new things He will bring this year!

On behalf of the elders, with prayers for an amazing new year,

Pete Youlden