
 Epworth United Methodist Church
 680 8th Avenue SW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 www.epworthvalleycity.com

Non Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Valley City, ND
 Permit #40
 Presorted
 Standard Rate

Epworth Events

Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love

September 2023



*A
Message
from Our
Pastor*

If March is the month that comes in like a lion and out like a lamb, then September, exactly opposite March on the calendar, can come in like a lamb and out like a lion.

Dakotans have experienced 100-degree days (especially in south central South Dakota, where I grew up) in early September and at least frost, if not snow flurries, in late September. (Some years, North Dakotans experience a delay in the lion-lamb months, and they show up in April and October.)

As I write this with hot temperatures forecast for the last week of August, it doesn't seem possible that we could have frost before you get the October newsletter. (It also doesn't seem possible that I'm writing about the October newsletter.)

But as the earth's axis moves to a perpendicular position relative to the sun's rays, so, our spiritual axis moves closer to God. I hope you all had a good summer sabbath. I hope you found time to rest, renew, recreate, and reflect. God made us for periods of rest. In fact, the Bible says God rested after the initial creation.

Just as the summer was a season of rest, renewal, recreation, and reflection, so the fall is a season of labor. Farmers are in the fields getting the crops out. Livestock producers are finishing the cattle. Students and school personnel are busy in their classrooms and doing homework. Choirs are beginning to rehearse. I even noticed the other day how the damp grass on a cooler afternoon smelled like a football field.

So, we have an opportunity to attend spiritual activities with renewed vigor. I invite you to worship with us on Sunday mornings either online or in-person. I invite you to consider taking one of the Bible studies that will be offered, or maybe a Sunday school class offered for children or adults.

Just as our calendar takes us through various seasons of growth, harvest, and renewal, so our discipleship lives tend to go through patterns or cycles, as well. Here's hoping that this fall is a season of renewed spiritual vigor for you. Please let me know how I can equip you for your spiritual journey.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Duane Coates

680 8th Ave. SW
 Valley City, ND 58072
 Ph. 701-845-0340
 Fax: 701-845-0347
 www.epworthvalleycity.com

Duane Coates
 Pastor
 pastor@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Home: 701-845-0156
 Cell: 605-695-5561

Cassidy Fraedrich
 Office Administrator
 Newsletter Editor
 office@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340

Hayley Winkler
 Director of Christian Education
 christianed@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-840-7073

Paul & Brenda Lint
 Directors of Youth Ministries
 youth@epworthvalleycity.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-880-8388

VirLyn Hoff
 Congregational Care Coordinator
 virlynhoff@yahoo.com
 Office: 701-845-0340
 Cell: 701-840-9285

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
 DATED MATERIAL
 PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



OPEN: Monday– Friday

6 am-6 pm

Saturday

8 am-4 pm



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Pastor's Day Off	2
3 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	4 Labor Day—Office Closed	5	6 5:30pm Church Family Supper 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	7 10am Pastor's Bible Study	8	9
10 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	11	12	13 5:30pm SLT Meeting 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	14 10am Pastor's Bible Study General Commission on Archives & History →	15	16
17 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	18 7pm Troubadours	19 3pm Staff Meeting	20 Newsletter Articles Due 7pm Choir 7pm Youth	21 10am Pastor's Bible Study 1:30pm UWF	22	23
24 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship	25 7pm Troubadours	26	27 7pm Youth	28 10am Pastor's Bible Study	29	30



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4th Pat Nielson
- 5th Kaynen Malec
- 10th Shirley Haugen
- 14th Jacob Olason
- 15th Autumn Rohrbeck
- 16th Jenessa Noeske
- 18th Carson Zubrod
Amber Knutson
Diane Myers
- 21st Briana Powers
- 24th Janelle Noeske
- 26th Barb Owen
- 27th Zachary Shape
Brad Noeske



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Kim & Wade Hesch
- 5th Breann & Chris Owen
- 10th Patsy & Wayne Winkler
- 16th Lori & Jon Jury
- 18th Kelly & Neil Pederson
- 23rd Denise & Gale Hansen



Your serving group provides fellowship for Sunday mornings and the comforting presence that all need following a funeral or memorial service. These are important ministries that we provide for one another within the community. It is a way to reach out to those who have not found that gift of the Holy Spirit as being real in their own lives. If the month is not a fit for you, please contact VirLyn Hoff, or leave a note in the office.

The next funeral will be served by the August serving group.

Kitchen Care—Please refer to the poster in the kitchen for care and cleanup after kitchen use.

Serving Groups

Serving for September CO-CHAIRS—

- Susan & Bruce Larson**
- Darlene & Marvin Bloom
- Carol & Bjorne Breske
- Marlys Christ
- Anna Duffy
- Connie Trapp
- Anna Burchill
- Todd & Jeanne Burchill

Serving for October CO-CHAIRS—

- Tami & Dave Hanson**
- Richard Hanson
- Holly & Dale Neuberger
- Dottie & Bob Werkhoven
- Jan & George McCarthy
- Scott & Sheila Cummings

Epworth's 2023 Leadership Team

Class of 2023

- Bonnie Ranum—Staff-Parish
- Jan McCarthy—Trustees
- Derek Woehl—Finance

Class of 2024

- Holly Neuberger—Trustees
- Bill Bertram—Staff-Parish
- Phil Mueller—Finance

Class of 2025

- Michelle Grebel—Staff-Parish
- Bruce Larson—Trustees
- Katy Van Dyke—Finance
- Pastor Duane Coates
- Bev Enger—Lay Leader
- Anita Tulp—Lay Member to AC
- Mary Lee Nielson—Treasurer
- Recording Secretary—Randi Watterson

Ministry in Review

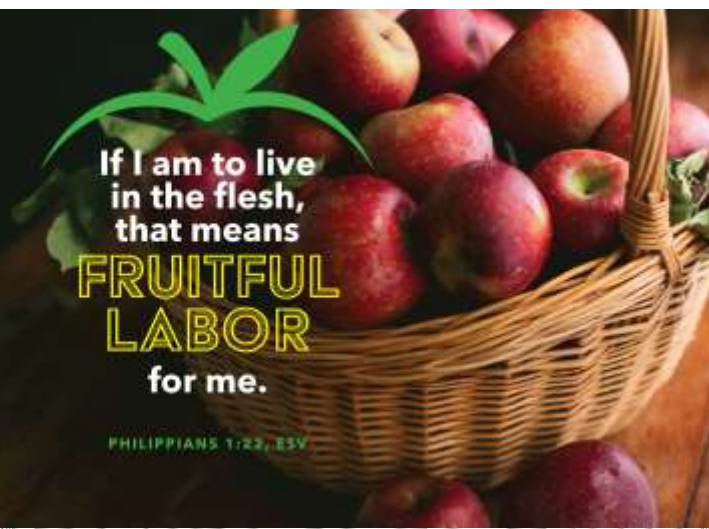
July 27, 2023—August 26, 2023

Daily Expenses	\$14,895.61
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,417.00
Parking Lot	\$60.00
Building & Maintenance	\$192.00
Water Heater	\$250.00
Youth (Camping)	\$1,470.00
Matthew 25	\$12.00
Utility Reimbursements	\$80.00
UMCOR	\$50.00



Sunday Worship Attendance

July 30—68	Online—15
August 6— 61	Online—21
August 13—62	Online—27
August 20—65	Online—15



Ways to continue your regular giving

Gifts may be dropped off at or mailed to the church, checks addressed to Epworth UMC may be deposited in the drive-through deposit box at First Community Credit Union, or you may use the online giving option on our webpage. Go to www.epworthvalleycity.com, choose the giving tab, click on the "Donate" button and follow instructions. Our online giving is managed by PayPal, yet you do not need to have a PayPal account to support our ministries. You may also choose to set up an Electronic Funds Transfer by downloading the EFT Form on the Giving page. Fill it out, sign, and return to the church office.



Washington School Prayers Available

A few people gathered Aug. 20 to walk prayerfully around Washington Elementary School (the public school for grades 4 through 6 just north of the church). Before leaving, we prayed in unison a prayer Pastor Duane developed based on one used at a school where Cathy Nielson (daughter-in-law to Mary Lee and Steve Nielson) taught. Copies of the prayer are available at the back of the sanctuary and in the office for those who would like to use it to pray for the school.

Backpacks Blessing Available

Many children and a couple youth brought their backpacks for blessings during the Children's Time of the Aug. 20 worship service. Each blessed backpack received a plastic ornamental clip-on tag. There are still tags available for students (or teachers) who would like their backpacks to bear a tag and a receive a blessing. Please see Pastor Duane or Hayley Winkler, our Christian Education director.



Bazaar needs

October 7th is B-Day! The day for the Bazaar is coming up fast. We need baskets and goodies to make baskets. We are always short of men's items. Suggestion: Have a theme like garden tools or barbeque necessities or games (we all like memory building!). Sewn items (Fabricology) will be in the gathering space this year to make it easier for our customers. Jams, jellies, and produce are good sellers too.

Workers are needed for wrapping baskets, dining-room set up and waitressing, cashiers, setting up and running bake shop, and everyone's favorite—clean up! We hope to have the youth and parents to run Park and Shop as in other years.

After our huge successful bake sale (\$2,400, thanks to all who contributed) we hope you bakers are ready to go again for the Bazaar! At the last sale we had requests for angel food cake, caramel rolls, chocolate fudge (any kind of candy) besides all the stuff we sold out in August. What a tribute to Epworth cooks! Remember, if you can't bake, you can contribute to buy lefsa and doughnuts. These are items we have made and are a good draw to our sale.

Fellowship and having fun for mission is right around the corner! God's blessings.

—the Bazaar Committee



Ideas for UMW Bazaar Basket Fillers

Kitchen items—towels, utensils, coffee mugs, unique containers, cook books, serving dishes

Men's items—hunting/fishing equipment, sports items, tools, books, blankets, gift cards

Children's items—books, toys, stuffed animals, blankets, baby items, games, movies

Women's items—books, candles, blankets, scarves, gloves, soaps, lotions

Holiday items—décor, napkins, towels, mugs, serving dishes

Items grouped by theme or color work very well.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again everyone!

Well it's been a busy month already! I hope everyone has been doing well and enjoyed their summer. I hope all of our kids are having a blast back at school.

Our Sunday School will officially start September 10th at 9am. We will also have our Library Adult Sunday School group back and they will be doing a book study on "Help Is Here" by Max Lucado. If you have questions please reach out and I will answer them as best I can or direct you to someone with more information.

I have not heard from anyone about wanting to start up the Sunrise Room Adult Sunday School yet, but if you have any ideas or would like to lead the group and have some ideas, please let me know!

With Sunday School starting up we are inviting our 4th grade and up to acolyte during worship. We would set up a time at the end of Sunday School for the kids to meet with Michelle Grebel and she will teach them what they will do to acolyte and we will work out a schedule for the kids of what Sunday they will be helping out. If you have any kids that are interested in being an acolyte, please let me know at Sunday School so I can set up a time with Michelle.

Also, if anyone would like to help out with Sunday School once a month, please let me know. We have a few teachers already but would like to have a few more in the case someone is unable to come in. So, if you are interested in helping us out, please let me know.

I will have video/photograph permission slips for parents to sign at Sunday School so we can continue to post photos as well as have the children on video during worship throughout the year. I will have these slips available throughout the Sunday School season; so if you are unable to attend the first Sunday school day, I will have them available.

Hope everyone has a fun and safe school year and looking forward to seeing everyone soon!!

Blessings,

Hayley Winkler
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com



Christmas Shoeboxes

It's not too early to start collecting for your Shoebox Christmas gifts. Spirit Lake Ministry Center annually coordinates Shoebox Christmas gifts to over 6,000 children across the reservations of North Dakota, South Dakota, and into Minnesota. [Learn more about Shoebox Christmas gifts and the drop-off locations.](#)

Empty shoeboxes, both wrapped and unwrapped, will be available at Epworth. We ask that you add your purchased gifts to the boxes. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, ask them what they would like for Christmas. Add that to the box along with a few additional smaller gifts, some candy, a winter hat, mittens or gloves, and place a rubber band around the box, to keep the lid on. Please label the box top with the age group and gender of the child, using the following age groups for the label: Infant, toddler, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and up. Please add only new toys, and please do not place in the box any clothing items except hats, gloves, or mittens.

All boxes must be returned to Epworth by Sunday, November 5, so they can be taken to the nearest conference drop-off point.

Singers wanted

All who love to sing are invited to join the Epworth Church Choir. Rehearsals start Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Epworth sanctuary. Unless other arrangements are made, they will rehearse each Wednesday night at 7 p.m. for about an hour. The choir sings typically on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

The choir is directed by Epworth's music director, Lance Drevecky, who has directed this choir for decades. The choir accompanist is Marian Drevecky, who happens to be married to Lance.

Employment positions at the Dakotas Conference

The Dakotas Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church is seeking a full-time Conference Benefits and Human Resources Officer to administer the conference clergy and lay staff benefits program, lead and direct conference human resource functions, and coordinate with the conference treasurer financial reporting for Wespeth and the Board of Pensions. The full job description can be found [here](#). To apply, email your resume and references to Leana Stunes at leana.stunes@dakotasumc.org.



In Memory of **Dave Zeller**
—Rudy & Sheryl
Hanson, Parking Lot



**SHOEBOX DONATIONS
NEEDED**

*Memorial gifts given to "Memorials" are undesignated funds that are used to purchase physical items used in worship, in the sanctuary, or in the church building at the discretion of our Servant Leadership Team.

Memorial gifts can be given at any time and either designated or undesignated.

Builders Club to Grant Outdoor Enhancements to Church in Woonsocket, SD

The summer ask for the Dakotas Conference Builders Club is for the Spirit of Faith Church in Woonsocket, SD (between Mitchell and Huron)

The money raised will complete a building process, begun in 2016, by adding features to the outdoor space. Specifically, the church plans to 1) install a partial wall at one end of the parking lot to clarify the property line and create more parking spaces, 2) illuminate the building's large metal exterior cross, and 3) install a digital sign to make announcements, share event details, and bolster community engagement.

The Rev. John Anderson, the church's United Methodist part-time pastor said: "The more connection we can make with our community, the more apt they are to join us for a service or an event, giving us the opportunity to share our fellowship and faith."

For more than 50 years, Spirit of Faith has been a federated church in which members of the local Lutheran Church worship with members of the local United Methodist Church as one congregation served by the same pastor. After deciding in 2016 to stop worshipping in separate buildings, they built a house of worship unique to both. Their first service was in December of 2019. The congregation has stepped up to support the building of the new church, as well as support a technology overhaul to further expand its reach.

Members report the new building has gotten much attention in the Woonsocket community, both for its technology and accessibility to all. The Spirit of Faith congregation is very involved in both their community and beyond. Besides offering their church building for community use, they host VBS, serve community meals, participate in the Snack Pack Program, provide backpacks, and school supplies for local students, host a trick-or-treat community event, meet regularly for Bible studies, hold quarterly gatherings for young adults and couples, pack and send health and school kits. Coincidentally, since January 2020, Spirit of Faith has grown by 115 new members and now boasts 244 members and an average in-person worship attendance of 69 in 2021, compared to 23 in 2016.

If you would like to join the Builders Club, please send \$25 or more to support Woonsocket Spirit of Faith. You may either give through the church, designating it for Builders Club or online at the website of the Dakotas-Minnesota Methodist Foundations https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate?blm_aid=25432 The gifts for this call will be received until September 30, 2023.

Donations accepted for disaster relief.

Wind-driven wildfires on Maui have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage. Your United Methodist Committee On Relief is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings. As first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area, you may give in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with "Advance #901670-Hawaii" written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Epworth with "Advance #901670—U.S. Disaster Relief" written on the memo line and given in the offering plate.

September is Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, September 10-16 is National Suicide Prevention Week, and Sept. 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day.

Suicide was the second-leading cause of death in 2020 for North Dakotans aged 10 to 44. That year, which is the latest for which Centers for Disease Control data are available, there were 135 suicides in North Dakota. That makes North Dakota the 16th highest in the nation for suicides per capita. So, suicide affects many of our parishioners.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) there are countless ways we can help "talk away the dark." Among them are: Initiating open conversations about mental health, speaking up and making sure more people know what research reveals about how we can help prevent suicide, lighting the way for those in distress to feel comfortable asking for help, and knowing what to say to support survivors of suicide loss and provide them the care they need. To read about the strategies, go to <https://talkawaythedark.afsp.org/#nspw>

Also, the AFSP is hosting an "Out of the Darkness" walk on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Lokken Stadium of the Valley City State University Campus (across the street south of Epworth). Check in starts at 2 p.m. The walk chair is our own Katie Woehl. You may contact her for more information at 701-845-7316 or Kathryn.woehl@vcsu.edu.

The AFSP says: "The Out of the Darkness Community Walk is a journey of remembrance, hope, and support. It unites our communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and the lives of those we love and care about."

This walk also raises funds for the foundation's work at preventing suicide. For instance, every \$50 provides AFSP educational materials for 25 people. To give, you may go to <https://supporting.afsp.org/>. Of every dollar raised, 83 cents directly support four focus areas: Research, advocacy, education, and support. AFSP has an "A" rating from Charity Watch and top rating of four stars from Charity Navigator.

The United Methodist Church has an obligation to address this issue and seeks to remove the oppressive stigma around suicide. In our latest *Book of Discipline*, the church says: "We deplore the condemnation of people who complete suicide, and we consider unjust the stigma that so often falls on surviving family and friends."

Ginny (Wire) Swanson dies

A former baptized member of Epworth, Virginia "Ginny" (Wire) Swanson, died at the age of 79 on Aug. 18, 2023, in Norman, Oklahoma. Ginny, born Sept. 20, 1943, was baptized here on Jan. 3, 1944, by the Rev. C. Maxwell Brown. She was the daughter of the late Dr. Don and Margaret Wire. Don was a veterinarian in Valley City at the time. Among her survivors is her husband Herb Swanson. For more information, go to: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/norman-ok/ginny-swanson-11414608>



Youth group will meet every Wednesday that school is in session, Sept.—April, starting @ 7pm on Sept. 6th



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

I grew up hearing “if I knew you were coming, I’d have baked a cake!” Maybe a country song. I often say “Come again. I’ll bake a cake.” Bruce Larson wants a carrot cake with cream cheese frosting.

Our Shepherdess Brenda Rekow from Ellendale visited our unit Thursday, August 17. She brought a cake!!! The cake was a great dessert for our salad luncheon. Good food! Good fellowship! Good to be with all of you sisters in faith!

Here is a recipe for a Happiness Cake:

<i>1 cup good thoughts</i>	<i>1 cup kind deeds</i>
<i>1 cup consideration for others</i>	<i>2 cups sacrifice</i>
<i>2 cups well beaten faults</i>	<i>3 cups forgiveness</i>

Mix thoroughly, add tears of joy and sympathy. Fold in 4 cups of faith. Blend well with warmth of human kindness and serve with a smile anytime.

That recipe is one for “Kin-dom” building, the “kin” of the Heavenly Father. We often pray ‘thy kingdom come, thy will be done. The recipe is also one for the creative, supportive fellowship of United Women in Faith. The recipe is one for sharing in the mission service that offers Faith and Love in Action.

Northwest District Annual Meeting is September 15-16 in Devils Lake. ND. I need to make room reservations for us. Let me know if you will go with me.

September 21 – a Thursday – will be our monthly meeting. Time to be 1:30 pm.

Bazaar Saturday Oct. 7. Many jobs! Crafts. Canning. Baking. Baskets. Set up. Serving. Clean up. All Faith and Love in Action!!!

*“Your Kingdom come. Your Will be done on earth as it is Heaven” (Matthew 6: 10)
Do we mean it?*



Congregational Care

Church Family Supper

Church Family Supper will be held on Wednesday, September 6th. Serving will begin at 5:30pm

A free-will donation is taken to cover the cost of food. All are invited to these times of food and fellowship. Please join us.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational
Care
Coordinator



Right: An insert from the UWF meeting last month, featuring Christian back-to-school tips

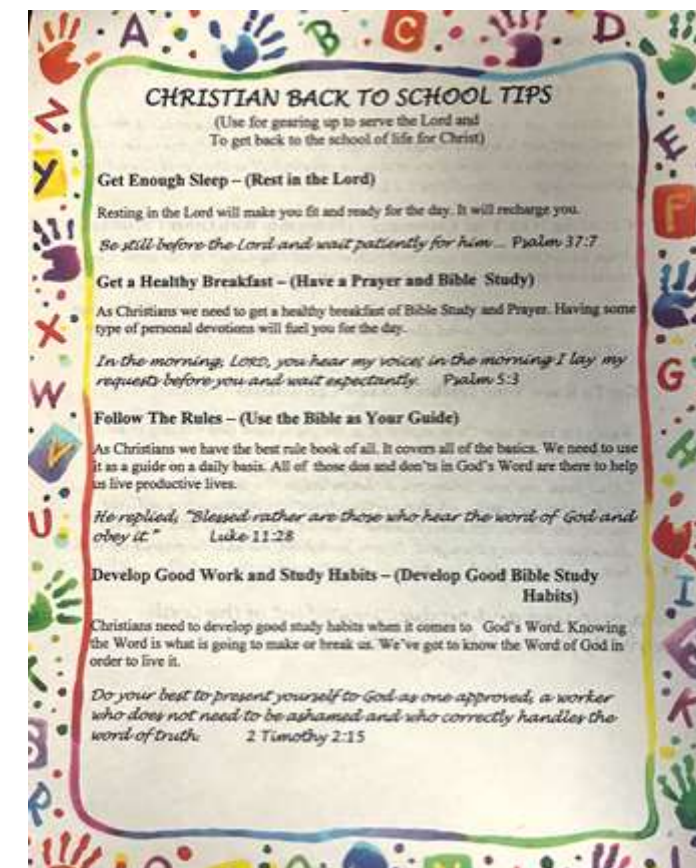
Address Change?



If your address has changed, please notify the church office @ 845-0340 or e-mail:

office@epworthvalleycity.com

Please help us keep our postage costs down by notifying the church of your address change.



Try Your Best – (Do Your Best for Christ)

As Christians we need to strive to do our best in whatever we do. After all, we are doing it to honor God.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Get Along With Your Classmates – (Fellowship With Other Christians)

When we as Christians get along with each other and fellowship with one another, it causes more productive lives which helps further the cause of Christ.

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Get To Know Your Teacher – (Know Christ More)

We need to know what Christ expects of us. Getting to know God will help us serve Him better.

“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 1 Chronicles 28:9

*Be a prepared and productive student of the Lord.
Be ready for the School of Life.*