



Living Stone Prison Church Springfield, SD *Winter, 2020*

Mark Your Calendar to come Worship with us

2-9-20
Northwestern College

2-16-20
Dakota Jubilee

2-23-20
open

3-1-20 & 3-8-20
open

3-15-20
Fusion

3-22-20
open

3-29-20
Dale Schmidt & friends

4-5-20
Northwestern College

4-12-20
open

Please call 605.366.3624 to set up a date to come worship with us! Visitors are always appreciated!

“God Sees the Heart”

In the beginning of each year we do something at the Living Stone worship service that has historically been somewhat stressful for me, we elect new inside (inmate) board members. One of the reasons this is stressful is that I have to gather ballots, count and recount them (that means math) and then contact those who received the necessary votes, to make sure they are willing to be in the running for the position. But, the real stressor for me is that no matter what happens, there will be people leaving that service disappointed. Members of Living Stone vote for who they believe would make a good council member and from there we pick names out of a bucket. (Similar to Acts 1:21-26) We have many men that would really like the opportunity to serve on the board, but only 8 at time can. Not only are some going to be disappointed that their name didn't get called, some leave the service disappointed that someone whose name was chosen in their eyes is not fit to serve.

Sometimes the Lord picks likely candidates, but often the election brings forth council members with little to no church leadership experience, in fact in the last couple years, we've added men that are very young in their faith. Since I am the pastor, sometimes I find myself questioning if we are doing something wrong in the process. This past election multiple men who'd served before were left off the council and most of the men who made the cut have no background in church leadership whatsoever. One might ask, “God is this really Your will, do I need a different bucket?”

But then I'm reminded of a group of fishermen that no normal rabbi would have called to be their disciples (Luke 5:1-11). I'm also reminded of a young man whose father left him in the pasture as Samuel looked over his older brothers to decipher which one was to be anointed king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

Save the Date-

8th Annual- Living Stone Banquet

**It will be a night filled with yummy food,
great entertainment and fellowship!**

Where: Bethany Reformed Church, Canton, SD

When: Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 6:30 pm

**RSVP: Please let us know by March 5 if
you can come, so we can plan on how
much food to have.**

Call or text 605.366.3624

**Pastor Jason will be giving a ministry
update on Living Stone's activities at the
prison. We will hear from a few
former inmates how God has used the
ministry to encourage and strengthen
their Christian journey.**

Article Continued . . .

Before it was revealed to the wise prophet that David was indeed to be king, God instructed Samuel to ignore outward appearances because the Lord "looks at the heart" (verse 7). I'm even reminded of a carpenter in his 30's whom God called to go to seminary and then plant a church of all things in the Mike Durfee State Prison.

Paul emphasized these same thoughts when he wrote to the Corinthian church; "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God" (1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ESV).

And in all of this, I am reminded that God is fully capable of calling forth those who are young in the faith and lacking in leadership experience; and He can bring out their potential. That thought makes me smile. I am also reminded of the men whom I've personally witnessed mature in the faith, having been given an opportunity to serve. When I think of our new board members in light of what scripture says, I

have good reason to be excited about our future.

Living out our Salvation by allowing God to stretch us is how we bear fruit for the Kingdom.

I can't help but think that perhaps somebody is reading this newsletter and has been given an opportunity to serve God in a way they don't feel qualified. The good news for you is that God's qualifications don't require a lengthy resume. He doesn't even need an MRI machine, the Lord just takes a look at your heart, if your heart beats to serve Him, get ready to get into the game. Whether that means being on a council, teaching Sunday School or planting a church in the mountains of Peru. If God calls you to it, He'll bring you through it!

We hope your 2020 is off to a good start. Thank you for your support!

Pastor Jason and Ruth Wiersma

Please prayerfully consider how you can help us meet our annual budget.

Please pray-

That we stay faithful to the job God has called us to do.

That God would work in the hearts and lives of the inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison.

That God would continue working in the lives of the men as they are released from prison.

Please make your **tax deductible checks** payable to Living Stone Prison Church.

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:

Scott Lee, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078

God bless-

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