



## PASTOR'S REPORT

To our church family,

I often feel that I write the same things from year to year. Paul writes to the church in Philippi, "My brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again. In fact, it is a safeguard to you" (Philippians 3:1). In the next chapter he writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Ministry is about many things, but one of the most important is faithfulness. We haven't found the key to rapid growth, but we are being faithful with what we have. So, we rejoice! We rejoice in what God is doing. We rejoice in our struggles. We rejoice in our victories. We know that Jesus is building His Church and we rejoice to be part of it.

We had a full year! We saw six people baptized in the waters of the Big Wood River, one child dedicated, several new members, and even a few weddings. Similar to past years, we had a successful parade outreach, giving out hundreds of free hot dogs and bottles of cold water. In October, we welcomed over 1,000 parents and children to our church for our annual fall outreach. We gave away lots of candy and treats, plus 650 cups of hot choco! These outreaches introduce people to our church, help make connections, and serve as a touchpoint for prayer. We also distribute Bibles and Gospel tracts. Of course, we continue with our Sunday morning services, our weekly meals, and Bible studies. It's not too different from what Jesus said in Matthew 10:42. What we do, we do in His name.

Youth with a Mission Sun Valley hosted their first Discipleship Training School at The Rock Church in the fall. We offered up our building when their initial plans fell through, and the school needed a place for their classes. For several months, we were blessed to have young people seeking God and being discipled in our church daily. They are currently finishing up their overseas mission trip.

This past year, we were finally able to address the church roof. This project was long overdue. Each winter brought concerns of possible leaks and damage to the roof and walls underneath. We were able to cover the expenses of this project due to your generosity and support. As a side blessing, the new shingles and Boston vents really enhance the look of the building. Taking care of God's house is important. It's a stewardship issue, but also communicates a message to our community that we're open for business and that we care. It's always been my heart that our church would be a shelter and refuge for our community.

and all who attend. Keeping a good roof over our heads is just another reminder of this in the natural. May it be increasingly true in the Spirit.

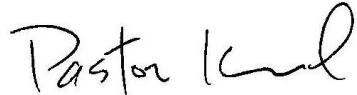
Since Covid, we've been promoting our church with the saying "Rediscover Church! It's not about religion, but a relationship with Jesus Christ!" This past year, I felt prompted by the Lord to change this to "Reimagine Church." I think this better reflects our heart for believers and unbelievers alike. As followers of Christ, I feel we're in a season of reimaging church: what it means and what it looks like. At the same time, there are many people who don't have a background with church. They aren't rediscovering church, but hopefully, they can be introduced to church for the first time, and more importantly, a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 3:13 tells us to "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:12-14). This is becoming more and more relevant. It ties into what Hebrews also says about considering "how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25). You've heard me say that to encourage someone is to pour courage into them. Our current series has as its theme Jesus' words to the disciples caught in the midst of a storm. He says, "Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid." All of us should take these words to heart as if Jesus were speaking them to us today. He is! We might be in the middle of a culture that is contrary, but the One who commands the winds and the waves to be still is with us.

In closing, I would like to share one more verse with you. In Psalm 127:1, Solomon writes, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain." I'm not going to add anything to this verse, but would like you to take a moment to consider it. Is the Lord building your house? Is the Lord watching over the city in which you live? Without Jesus, anything we build is in vain. Without the Lord watching over our lives, we will never be secure. I encourage you to make doubly sure that Jesus is building your house, and to pray for the peace and prosperity of the city to which God has carried you. "Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" (Jeremiah 29:7).

God has been so faithful! We remain positive and future-focused. We strive to point people to Jesus in everything we do. Sarahlee and I are thankful for each one of you. We consider you to be our friends, our brothers, and our sisters in the Lord. Thank you for your incredible support and prayers these past eight years. We love you, we are for you, and we want God's very best for your life.

In Christ's love,



Pastor Konrad