



Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.

ZECHARIAH 10:1

## **FIRST CHRONICLES**

**April, 2026**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
4102 190<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
GEORGE, IOWA 51237  
Telephone: 712-475-3440  
Website: [fbcgeorge.org](http://fbcgeorge.org)

Pastor, Jesse Sternke  
Cell Phone: 507-370-3368  
Email: [pastor@fbcgeorge.org](mailto:pastor@fbcgeorge.org)  
Secretary, Crystal deBoer  
Cell Phone: 712-298-2124  
Email: [secretaryfbc@frontier.com](mailto:secretaryfbc@frontier.com)

***“These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them... “And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” – Matthew 10:5a, 38-39***

I was reflecting on the expression “20/20 vision.” This expression comes out of the eye doctor world because to have 20/20 vision is to see things clearly. But we use this expression mainly for the past. In looking back on the past, we can often have “20/20 vision” because we can see what was said, what happened, and the consequences of what followed. Of course, this expression took on a new meaning after the year 2020 and the advent of COVID. Many people see that what happened during that time more clearly now than when we were in the midst of it.

I wonder how the disciples thought through the teaching gave to them in the verses above? As He sent them out on mission and told them not to fear the persecution that they would encounter, He also told them not to avoid the persecution. They needed to be willing to take up their cross and follow Jesus. But at the point of teaching them this, Jesus had not been crucified. In fact, up to this point in His ministry, Jesus hasn’t really revealed that he would be crucified. When he did reveal that, the disciples didn’t understand it.

So, putting ourselves in their position, this teaching would be shocking to say the least. The cross was an instrument of torture and death in their day and to follow Jesus and go out on mission for him is to be willing to take up their cross. They are carrying around the possibility of dying for following Christ with them. This was a radical commitment that was required of them—BEFORE they even knew that Jesus would one day die on His cross to save them from their sins and rise again so that they could be with Him forever in heaven.

On this side of Jesus’ sacrifice, we still see the radical commitment that Jesus calls us to, but we also see the reward at the end. We see that we need to be willing to sacrifice, but we also know that Jesus led the way—He did what He calls us to do. And we see the cost as Jesus saw it. He knew the cross was on the horizon for Himself—so He knew what was being asked of His followers. We know that sacrifice is required of us—and we know that whoever we share the Gospel with, that is the same call that will be a part of their lives. When the people we disciple wrestle with the cost of following Jesus, we aren’t unsympathetic. We’ve been there. We will be there. And we can support and comfort one another through it.

Following Jesus, being sent out on mission, and sharing the Gospel—it all requires sacrifice. It may even require extreme sacrifice—our relationships and our lives. This isn’t something to be flippant about or to water-down. There is a cost to seeking the lost. But do not fear. Because we will find our eternal life in following Christ. And when we find it, we won’t lose it. That is Christ’s promise to us—especially as we will soon celebrate His Resurrection.

In Christ,  
Jesse

# OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
<b>Sunday, April 5</b> Alan & Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, April 5</b> Breanna Schrick	<b>Sunday, April 5</b> Sarah Gruis
<b>Sunday, April 12</b> Kevin & Lynette Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, April 12</b> Judy Eben	<b>Sunday, April 12</b> Katie DeBoer
<b>Sunday, April 19</b> Henry & Joan Boneschans	<b>Sunday, April 19</b> Gerri Spangler	<b>Sunday, April 19</b> Rachel Kramer
<b>Sunday, April 26</b> Doug & Donna DeBoer	<b>Sunday, April 26</b> Terresa Wagenaar	<b>Sunday, April 26</b> Kayla Reck

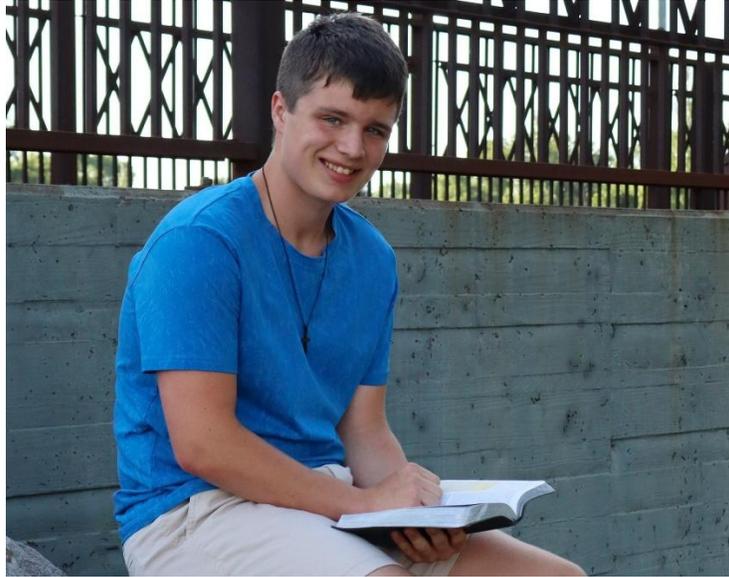
*Thank You  
So Much*

Thank you for your prayers!  
- Brian & Nancy Wagenaar



April	2	George Stratman
	7	Gwen Kooiker
	8	Molly Kooiman
	9	Cindy Eben
	11	Lynette Wagenaar
	12	Jace Schrick
	16	Roger & Janelle Kooiker Dan DeGroot
	17	Nolan Kooiker
	19	Michelle McDowell Obadiah Sternke
	25	Josiah Cottington
	27	Alyssa den Hoed Chantel Tiedeman





**Isaac Kooiker**  
*(Central Lyon High School)*

Hi, many of you know me as Isaac Kooiker. I've attended Central Lyon in Rock Rapids, where I've been involved in a variety of activities throughout high school, including Football, Baseball, Trap Shooting, FFA, and FCA. I have truly valued these experiences and the friendships I've built along the way.

After graduation, I plan to attend Minnesota West in Worthington in the Production Agriculture program. I'll be living at home and commuting, which will allow me to continue helping on our family farm while furthering my education.

I want to sincerely thank everyone for your support and prayers over the years. I would appreciate your continued prayers as I step into this next chapter of my life.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." ~ Romans 8:18

**CONGRATULATIONS ISAAC!**

## April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Last Night Awana  7:00 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM At the Cross Service	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> EASTER 8:30 AM Sunrise Service 9:00 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Awana Awards Nt	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship  11:00 AM Trustee Board Mtg Music Board Mtg  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Visitation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship Mixed Choir  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Sunday School  10:00 AM Worship Bell Choir  6:30 PM Discipleship U	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30 AM Good Sam Worship  6:30 PM Youth  7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	<b>30</b>		