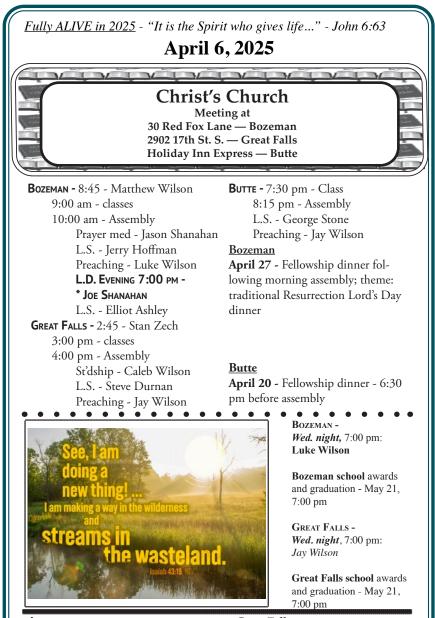
"So I got up and went out to the plain; and behold, the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory which I saw by the river Chebar, and I fell on my face." -- Ezekiel 3:23



Winners of the youth division "spiritual leadership award" team from Great Falls Christ's Church Academy an integral ministry of Christ's Church in Great Falls

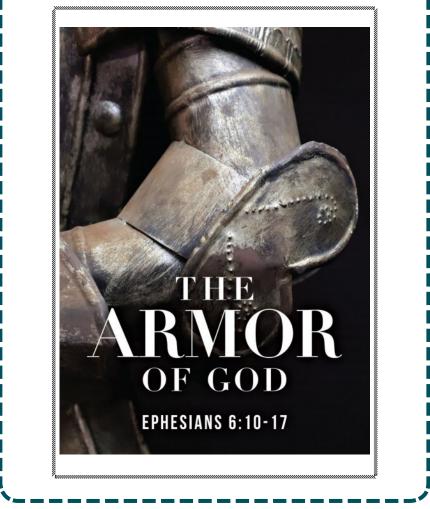
When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus \*said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

John 11:43,44



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ladies' Advance - May 1-3, 2025 at Fishtail Badlands Family Camp - May 23-26 Lancaster, OH Family Camp - May 23-26 MT Youth camp - June 8-13 at Fishtail Men's Peaks - July 24-26, 2025 Family Camp - Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, 2025 <u>Great Falls</u> April 6 - fellowship dinner following assembly



## Quotation of the week:

"The writer of Hebrews is a deep thinker, inspired, of course, by the Holy Spirit. It is important that the reader follow his logic through carefully, paying attention as to how the writer plays off of certain key words. In this way the hidden truths of Jesus, carefully placed in the prophetic writings of the Old Testament, are brought to light. The spotlight of the spiritual is thus focused on Jesus the Anointed One, seated on the heavenly throne, at the right hand of the Majesty on high!" -- Heavenward through Hebrews (The Anointed One)

## ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 63Wednesday Night (4/2) – 56Morning Assembly – 116Butte Lord's Day – 16Evening Assembly – 62GF Lord's Day – 71,92



Reasonings from Revelation

## **Introduction to the Seven Trumpets**

The four horsemen have ridden, the voices of those who have gone into Paradise cry for justice from underneath the altar, and rocks and mountains have fallen upon those who did not repent. This is the first cycle of pictures given in the Lamb's breaking the seals on the book. Firstly, forces are at work on mankind on the earth; secondly, there is a scene from the spiritual realm (what would be called the *heavenlies* or *heavenly places* in Ephesians); and thirdly, there is a gripping graphic of God's judgment at the end. An interlude of 144,000 forming the Israelite core of the church is seen, followed by a multitude whom no one can count from every nation and tribe, comforted and encouraged in every way by the heavenly Father. The

stage is set: "And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour" (Revelation 8:1). Silence...

- Seven angels Having been kept on the edge of their seats for thirty minutes, the
  audience is really "prepped" for the next series of events. "And I saw the seven angels
  who stand before God," recorded the apostle John, "and seven trumpets were given
  to them" (Revelation 8:2). Earlier, the audience was introduced to four living creatures
  (like the cherubim of Ezekiel) in and around the throne. Then twenty-four elders were
  presented, falling down before the throne and casting their crowns before Him who
  lives forever and ever. Now these who are called "the seven angels who stand before
  God" are brought into view.
- Another angel Before the seven angels do anything with their trumpets, there is one more series of actions that must occur. "And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne"

(Revelation 8:3). Again, this is the altar of incense in the heavenly temple paralleling the altar of incense which stood in the physical temple in physical Jerusalem. The incense from the physical altar is clearly identified as a foreshadow of the prayers of the new covenant saints, and the angel's incense in the vision is being added to those prayers. "And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand" (Revelation 8:4). [This should encourage modern saints to pray more often and more intently!]

A sense of impending judgment or doom pervades the atmosphere.

The censer – John is watching these events in heaven intently, and the audience is drawn into that same intense watch, wondering what will happen next. "And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth..." (Revelation 8:5). That was totally unexpected! The angel just took that fire-filled censer and threw it over the edge of heaven where it landed on the surface of the earth (in the vision). Then what? "...and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake." It is similar to someone's throwing a grenade over the edge of a cliff, and having an explosion occur when it lands on the talus below.

Anyone hearing the noise of that which was like an explosion — the "peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake — (and an explosion would have been small compared to what happened when the fire-filled censer hit "the earth") would be thinking to himself, "This can't be good!" The audience is now pulled to the edge of heaven, and ready to peer down on earth, ready to see what happens next. A sense of impending judgment or doom pervades the atmosphere. Certainly the honest individual reading this is becoming very repentant and willing to persevere through any earthly challenges in order to have the Lamb guide him "to the springs of the water of life" (Revelation 7:17).

"And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them" (Revelation 8:6).

JAY WILSON