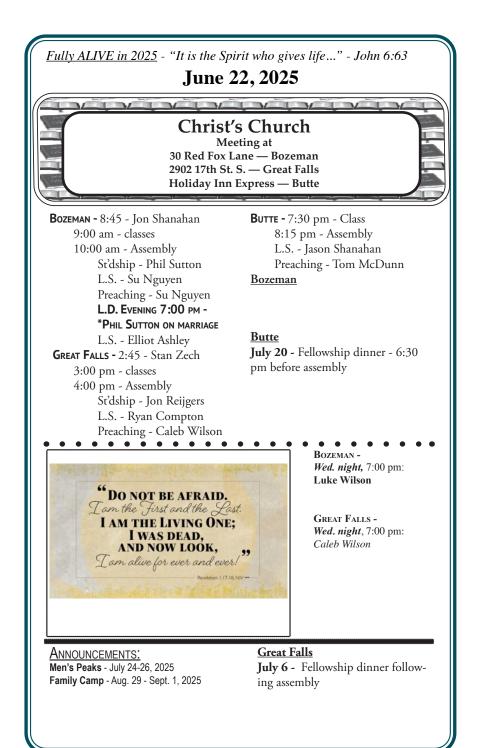
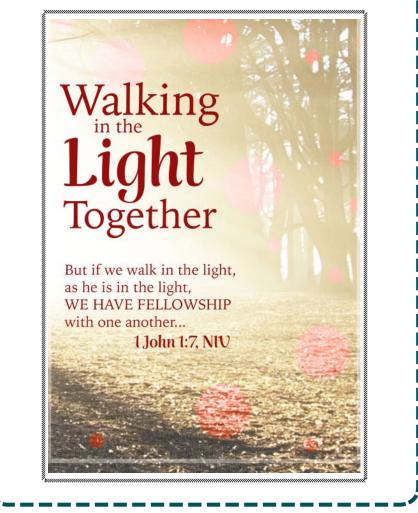
So he [Samuel] sent and brought him [David] in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. -- 1 Samuel 16:12.13



Kevin Giggee and Gabe Nichols Wednesday night gathering Church of Christ Yankton, SD

"For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed..." *Romans* 15:18





Quotation of the week:

"By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same manner as He walked" (1 John 2:5-6). This is certainly getting past mere "talk." Walking as Jesus walked, teaching as Jesus taught, suffering as Jesus suffered, dying for the gospel as Jesus died ... this is the test. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," averred the Lord Himself, "but whoever loses it for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). -- Letters from John - "Imitating Jesus"

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: (MONTANA YOUTH CAMP)

Bible School – 62	Wednesday Night (6/18) — 53
Morning Assembly – 105	Butte Lord's Day – 15 (ph: 5)
Evening Assembly – 53	GF Lord's Day – 59,77 Wed 41



Reasonings from Revelation

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

"Flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm" introduce the next vision. Significantly, it begins with these words: "And a great sign appeared in heaven..." (Revelation 12:1). Not just a sign, a *great* sign! Featured prominently in this vision is a woman, and associated with her are those numbers "one thousand two hundred sixty days" and "a time and times and half a time." Previously the case has been made that those numbers represent the church age, which is key to understanding this vision. "The woman" appears both before and after Christ's ascension (details to follow). She is clearly the church, but the scope must be broader than that: she would be "the people

of God," both Old Testament and New.

- The great sign "And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth" (Revelation 12:1,2). This is a magnificent and royal woman, to be described as "clothed with the sun," the moon under her feet, and with that crown of twelve significant stars. Could it be Mary, wife of Joseph, who was overshadowed with the Holy Spirit to conceive the Christ Child? No, Mary the humble handmaiden of the Lord, is too small a vessel to be described in this way. The apostle Paul points something out: speaking of Israel "according to the flesh" he describes the nation as those "to whom belongs the adoption as sons and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, *and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh...*" (Romans 9:4,5). The woman, up to the formation of the clurch as recorded in Acts chapter two, is the physical nation Israel, "the people of God" in the Old Testament, and is the origin of the Christ Child according to the flesh.
- Another sign The reader has been ushered into the birthing room, where the Christ Child is pictured as about to be born. "And another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven

diadems" (Revelation 12:3). The dragon — Satan — has entered the birthing room. "And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child" (Revelation 12:4). A bit of a terrifying picture, with that tail thrashing around and described as sweeping away a third of the stars of heaven (possibly a reference to a third of the angels of heaven following Satan in his rebellion against God). Shortly following the birth

The church [the woman] is in her place for the entire church age.

of Jesus (there had to be enough time for Mary to go through her thirty-three days of uncleanness after giving birth to a male child, enough time for Joseph and Mary to go to Jerusalem to offer the sacrifices for the first born male to open the womb, to return to Bethlehem, and for the magi to arrive and offer their gifts), Herod's troops were on the road to Bethlehem and its environs to destroy the rival "King of the Jews." This is how the dragon attempted to "devour her child."

 Victory for the Child – "And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne" (Revelation 12:5). "The rod of iron" is a reference back to Psalm two, wherein Christ, the One begotten from the dead and having ascended to heaven, has been installed as King on the heavenly throne (Psalm 2:6-9). He is beyond the reach of dragon!

"And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might by nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days" (Revelation 12:6). The woman — the people of God, now the church — is in her place for the entire church age.