



# Christian Fellowship Church Of Eldora



**July/August  
2025**

**A Newsletter of the  
Christian Fellowship Church  
1415 12th Street, Eldora, IA**

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## **What's In A Word?**

*By Pastor Susan*

In Luke 10:25-37, an expert in the law (a lawyer) stands up to test Jesus asking what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus agrees with him that to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” is what the law requires to inherit eternal life. In verse 29 it says that the lawyer wants to “justify himself,” so he asks Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Semantics is the study or science of the meaning of language, and that's what the lawyer engages with this question. He wants to justify his definition of “neighbor,” which probably meant (to him) someone who was like him in status, culture, race, or ideology. He finds out that Jesus's definition of “neighbor” is much more expansive than that, and his idea/meaning of neighbor was never the same after that.

Words carry meaning and ideas for us beyond the dictionary definitions, influencing how we use them and how others understand them; meanings colored by peculiar usage or an experience attached to that word. For instance, some parents exclude certain possible names for their new baby because of an adverse association to someone with that name they disliked or who hurt them in the past. The name isn't just a name, it carries images, ideas, and feelings with it.

We come to the Bible the same way. Though we all read the same words, our personal ideas and feelings attached to those words, formed by our personal experiences, lead us to a very self-referenced and particular understanding of what it all *means*. Additionally, because words become thoughts accompanied by emotions, we form unconscious emotional responses to them, causing us to be drawn to, repelled by, or very passionate about what we read.

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Reading the Bible in isolation, and strictly from our own personal, cultural, and experiential perspectives, limits our understanding to our own self-referenced point of view. Growth requires an outside agent to expose us to new meaning. We need new definitions and experiences to broaden what the words mean. Reading the words in the original languages or with others who bring their own meaning/experiences with the words can help broaden the *meaning* we glean from the words, but there's a better way to free ourselves from the attachment to and limitations of our own definitions of the words we read.

It was the lawyer's *interaction with Jesus* which expanded his understanding of what God means by "neighbor." Likewise, when we read the Bible *with Jesus*, he is present with us through the Spirit within us, redefining the words as we read. Jesus says that he is the truth (Jn 14:6) and that the Spirit will lead us into all truth (Jn 16:13). The words become infused with new meaning because we not only hear the words differently, but Jesus's presence makes us *feel* the words differently, if we pay attention.

Reading the Bible with Jesus provides a truer definition of the words, and by his presence he transforms the context and experience that colors our reading of the words. And because he is the same always, as we adopt his meanings, we find a more common, truer Kingdom language by which we become more unified in word, thought, feeling, and purpose with one another and God.



## July 2024 - June 2025 Summary Report

	July-June	BUDGET	0
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges, Offerings and Donations	\$178,996		\$71,916
<b>Expenses</b>			
Staff Expenses	\$128,883	\$132,628	\$50,346
Buildings and Utilities	\$39,268	\$43,150	\$18,113
Worship	\$1,953	\$5,600	\$977
Ministries and Misc	\$1,923	\$4,275	\$2,233
<b>Total Outflows</b>	<b>\$172,027</b>	<b>\$185,653</b>	<b>\$71,669</b>
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Fund Balances as of 6/30/25			
General Fund	\$41,852		\$34,384
Building Fund	\$12,683		
HOPE Fund	\$3,652		
Savings Account	\$7,020		
Memorial Fund	\$13,911		
Youth Fund	\$9,436		
Mission and Nurse Funds	\$2,719		
Trust Fund	\$129,308		
Davison Scholarship Trust	\$76,938		
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<b>NON-BUDGET ITEMS</b>		<b>YTD</b>	
HOPE expenditures		\$975	
Missional Giving		\$10,615	
Misc projects		\$9,797	

Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora Council/SPRC; June 25, 2025, 4:30 pm

**Members present:** Scott Swartz, Pastor Susan, Pastor Pat, Valerie Soesbe, Dave Dunn, Rosanne Foster, Steve Foster, Jim Johnson and Mary Swartz

Dave Dunn called the meeting to order, and Pastor Susan began with a prayer.

The minutes were reviewed. Scott Swartz moved to accept last month's minutes; Steve Foster seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **TRUSTEES –**

Randy Tjaden has been notified about the leak in the balcony.

**FINANCE –** All the bills are up to date. Total input for the year is \$69,000 which is \$9,000 more than last year, outflow was \$68,000. Valerie Soesbe moved to accept the financial report and Rosanne Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **NEW BUSINESS –**

There has been some concern about the sanctuary being too dark for proper filming. There are also several bulbs that need replaced. The sound system also needs serviced or updated. Pastor Pat has done some checking and will contact a light and sound company to discuss some options.

We are exploring sending out a mailing to everyone in our zip code to introduce CFC.

The annual meeting of members was discussed. The pastors will mention it during service, and have the members consider whether they would like to be a member of the council. July 20 was the chosen day to have the annual meeting, which will be planned for either the end of that service or directly after the service.

New lines need to be painted in the parking lot.

#### **OLD BUSINESS –**

September 7 is the working goal to start children's church/Sunday school.

September 7 is the scheduled date for a quarterly potluck.

A bulletin board was discussed to post the minutes and financials.

Steve Foster moved and Val seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Strait, Secretary



**July Birthdays**

- July 06 - Layne Nelson
- July 09 - Scott Humphrey
- July 09 - Mary Kosanke
- July 10 - Harold Newton
- July 10 - Sue Shaw
- July 11 - Eric Minter
- July 12 - Michelle Budweg
- July 12 - Bryce Izer
- July 13 - Levi Prosser
- July 17 - Anita LaVelle
- July 18 - Neal Titus
- July 20 - Daniel Minter
- July 23 - Cindy Drake
- July 25 - Mary Prosser
- July 25 - Carol Strait
- July 25 - Aaron Swartz
- July 26 - Kella Minter
- July 28 - Brody Clemons
- July 30 - Pastor Susan

**Sunday, July 06**

**Communion/Bread of Life Sunday**  
9:30 Worship Service  
*Transfiguration Sunday*

**Sunday, July 13**

9:30 Worship Service

**Thursday, July 17**

3:00 Prayer Ministry

**Sunday, July 20**

9:30 Worship Service

**Wednesday, July 23**

9:30 am Women's Coffee Fellowship

**Sunday, July 27**

9:30 Worship Service



**Sunday, August 03**

**Communion/Bread of Life Sunday**

9:30 Worship Service

**Sunday, August 10**

9:30 Worship Service

**Sunday, August 17**

9:30 Worship Service

**Thursday, August 21**

3:00 Prayer Ministry

**Sunday, August 24**

9:30 Worship Service

**Wednesday, August 27**

9:30 am Women's Coffee Fellowship

**Sunday, August 31**

9:30 Worship Service

**August Birthdays**

- Aug. 01 - Lisa LaVelle
- Aug. 01 - Ashely McEwen
- Aug. 02 - Curtis Hobson
- Aug. 02 - Nick LaVelle
- Aug. 02 - David Lloyd
- Aug. 02 - Loretta Reinertson
- Aug. 03 - Jay LaVelle
- Aug. 05 - Harper Lloyd
- Aug. 07 - Blaire Donaldson
- Aug. 09 - Harper Minter
- Aug. 09 - Kaleb Roling
- Aug. 10 - Les Raisch
- Aug. 12 - Joan Riskedahl
- Aug. 15 - Rick Shaw
- Aug. 25 - Braden Nelson
- Aug. 27 - John Hess
- Aug. 29 - Haylee Lloyd





Loretta sharing fellowship.



Palm Sunday



Val & Patty, Rummage Sale Queens!



Rummage Sale



Harold sharing his music



HC Parade

Christian Fellowship Church of Eldora  
 1415 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Eldora, Iowa 50627

Non-Profit Organization  
 PAID  
 U.S. Postage Permit #83

**August 2025**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>30</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>4</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>5</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>6</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>13</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>18</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>19</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>20</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>21</b> 3:00pm Prayer Ministry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>27</b> 9:00am Bible Study 9:30am Women's Coffee Fellowship 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00am Worship Service	<b>1</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>2</b> 9:30am EWOW	<b>3</b> 9:00am Bible Study	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>