

"Your Bible In 2024"

by Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling & Administration

Christmas has just passed and the year 2024 is now straight ahead of us. How will you celebrate, grow, and mature in your Christian faith this year? What part will your Bible play in that? Maybe some reflection on how much our Bibles played a part in 2023 will help us build or improve on that in the year ahead. January 1 is just ahead of us and now is a great time to think about how your printed Bible or the Bible app on your phone can help you grow in your faith, hope, and strength this coming year.

A couple summers ago my wife Rhonda and I were able to visit the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. What an amazing museum that is, I highly encourage you to take it in if you ever visit our nation's capital. Visiting it was just another reminder of the impact that God's Word has had on our world for thousands of years and up to today. The Bible has provided inspiration, hope, guidance, truth, and the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ for all who believe. It's still the best-selling book in the world.

I would like to encourage you to make 2024 the year of your Bible. Not "the" Bible, but "your" Bible. Where is it? How long has it been since you spent time reading it? Which translation do you prefer (King James, NIV, The Message, NLT)? And what form do you prefer (Printed book, audio, phone app, tablet, computer)? This past year I used the YouVersion Bible app on my phone to listen to the entire Bible (Bible In One Year Plan) read out loud as I followed along. There was also a very helpful commentary each day written by British pastor Nicky Gumble. This was a wonderful experience and I feel like I gained so much help, encouragement, and inspiration from my daily Bible reading this year by doing that. Perhaps that's something you could try in 2024?

The Bible itself is full of great reminders for us of its importance. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." In verse 11 of that Psalm is says, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Romans 10:17 says, "For faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active..." Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." And of course, there are so many more that testify to the importance of this word in our lives.

The Bible is just as powerful and life-changing today as it has ever been, but we must read it, receive it, study it, live it, and share it, for it to make a difference in our lives and in our world. Yes, we may have read it before, but the Holy Spirit can bring new life, new insights, and new wisdom from scripture each time we read it or hear it. If you feel like you don't have enough time, think about something you could take away or decrease this next year to make time for God and His Word. I'm sure we could all find something less important that we could do without. May God bless you in the receiving of His Word in this coming year!

Minister of Discipling & Administration | Minister of Community Life | Minister of Outreach Glen Rhodes | Nancy Kuhns | Emily Kauffman



JANUARY BOOK OF THE MONTH



God Never Gives Up On You by Max Lucado

No one is more suited to help assure you of God's grace than Jacob. He was less a prodigy and more a prodigal. Strong on savvy. Weak on conscience. God never turned his back on Jacob. And he won't turn his back on you. Do you wonder if you've stumbled one too many times for God to use someone like you? Could you benefit from an encounter with God's unending, unbending, unswerving love and devotion? This book is for you! Find this book in our foyer book rack and check it out today!

> Attention AMC Youth! There is still time to get registered for Camp Menno Haven's Winter Retreat! Ashley Litwiller will be the featured speaker both weekends! Speak with Glen or Erica soon to register. Church will cover all expenses!

FIRST FRUITS Giving God Our Best Stewardship November 26 - \$2,006 December 3 - \$5,989 December 10 - \$4,185 December 17 - \$4,566 December 24 - \$5,530

If you would like to give tithes & offerings, please place them in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary or mail your envelope/check to the church at: 710 E Park, Arthur, IL 61911 Please include your envelope so your number can be recorded.



It's that time of year again! Make sure to check your info on the rough draft in the church foyer. Mark "OK" if all is correct, or make any necessary changes.



It's time for our AMC Youth Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser!

ER



Subs are \$8.00 each. Contact an AMC Youth to get yours ordered!

	1ST - EVONDA YODER
μday	5TH - KATHY YODER
BIRT	7TH - ESTHER YODER
BI	17TH - ED YODER
R	17TH - NANCY KUHNS
UARY	18TH - ALEX OLIVERO
AN	18TH - MADISON SNYD

19TH - ALTA YODER 19TH - RHONDA RHODES 20TH - LUKE MILLER 21ST - HENRY CHUPP 24TH - SIMON KAUFFMAN 31ST - HAROLD YODER

AMC Personal Profile: MARLA KAUFFMAN



- What is your job and what does it consist of?
 I work at Herff Jones. We make and ship graduation apparel.
- 2. What is your favorite verse of the Bible? **Psalm 91:4** *He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection.*
- 3. Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? After my Dad passed away. Through dreams, God gave me peace.
- 4. What is your favorite song or hymn that we sing at church? **Here I Am, Lord**
- 5. What hobbies do you enjoy? I enjoy kayaking, quilting, and scrapbooking.
- 6. What is the happiest memory of your life? **The birth of our children and grandchild.**
- 7. Do you have a favorite inspirational quote? Be still and know that I am God.