



“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” -- John Wesley



As I write this article there have been three people with attachments to members in each church of the Parish that have gone Home to be with the Lord, and at least one other moved to hospice in just the past week or so. Whether loved ones were prepared for this to happen or if it was a total surprise, our lives change when God calls someone home. With the changes we've all had to make over the past few months, sometimes our way of being able to say 'goodbye' to someone who's Earthly life has ended can cause emotions to be different as well.

In the past few weeks things in my life have changed. I recently shared with each church that my dad was diagnosed with cancer for the third time. Each of the first two times came with treatments or surgery that put him in remission. And that hopefully will happen this time as well. Doctors say this was found early so the prognosis is good, as long as his body doesn't reject the chemo pills. I am blessed to have both parents still living, and my mom is also a cancer survivor, now more than 15 years in remission. So, I along with my immediate family, have had experience with hearing the word cancer with loved ones.

I know that I'm not the only one in the world with these kinds of life changing things happening in life. It happens many times each day around the world. And thankfully, thanks to advancements made in the medical field, many forms of cancer are now more treatable than just a few years ago. But it's still not easy to receive the news when a close loved one gets the diagnosis.

As I have shared a few times since becoming your Pastor, God uses the time we spend here on Earth preparing us for life AFTER leaving our earthly body behind. It is actually a three-step process. First is getting to know God. The next step is to grow in God, and by God's grace fulfill His purpose for us on earth. The final step is to get ready to enjoy eternity in heaven with God and others!

John 3:16 is probably the best-known Scripture for most of us. But there are many others that help prepare us along our daily walk here. Jeremiah 1:4-5 and Isaiah 41:13 are good examples for step one. 1 Peter 2:2-3 and Colossians 2:6-7 are good examples for step two. Ephesians 2:6 and Romans 6:23 go along with John 3:16 for step three. There are other examples for each step that you can find in your Bible that will also help you in your daily walk.

If anyone, either members in the Parish, the community or in the area ever need to talk to someone about sudden life changes, don't hesitate to reach out to me. You will find my contact information each month in this newsletter. Social distancing is not a problem, as needed. And unless given permission, any communication we have will be confidential. As God's servant here, I'm willing to help when needed.

Stay Safe and may God's Blessings be with each of you,
Pastor Keith



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Hello everyone, I hope you are all doing well. The Bonfield Youth Group is looking to help out the people in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. To practice

social distancing, we would like to do yard work for our neighbors and help with odd jobs around homes. Contact us either through the church office at 815-802-9805 or through our church Facebook page Bonfield-Grand Prairie Youth Group.

~ Ryan Coffman (coffmanry@gmail.com)

GAMES – SNACKS – FUN

A TIME TO TALK ABOUT GOD IN AN OPEN, HONEST, AND REAL WAY!

Our Community Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th through 12th grade and all denominations. Our Youth Leader is Ryan Coffman. Ryan is a member of Grand Prairie UMC.



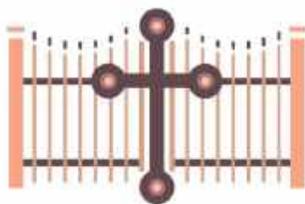
I would like to thank my church family for the many prayers, cards, gifts of food, while getting stronger from my recent knee replacement surgery. Value your ability to do the work of Jesus. YOU are important. I covet many more prayers during this healing process.

~ Carol Buente

Bible Quiz

In John of Patmos' vision, what is special about the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem?

- A. They are made of gold and always closed.
- B. They are made of amethyst and onyx.
- C. They are closed by day and open by night.
- D. They are made of pearl and never closed.



Answer on Page 6

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Puzzle!

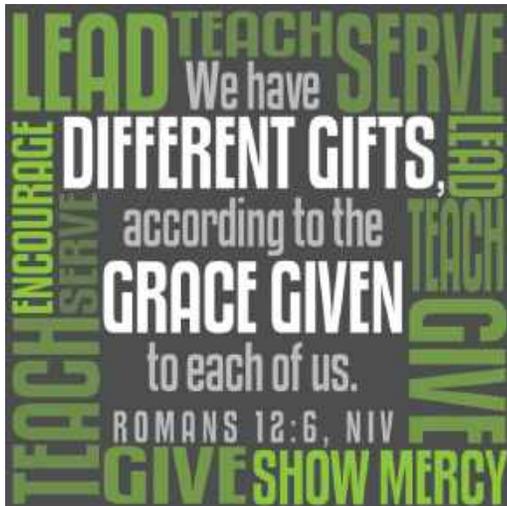
After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

- Genesis 2:15
- Genesis 11:9
- Genesis 35:1
- Exodus 13:18
- Ruth 1:1
- 1 Kings 18:19
- 1 Chronicles 11:4
- Isaiah 23:1
- Isaiah 23:2
- Isaiah 23:3
- Jonah 1:2
- Matthew 3:6
- Matthew 4:18
- Matthew 26:36
- Luke 24:13
- John 2:1
- Acts 8:5
- Acts 11:22
- Acts 17:16
- Romans 1:15

S I D O R N G N I L E S O
 J J O A R D A R I V E R O
 E S G T B D A H T E N L A C T
 R A E H E B E A N L E A O U
 U M T H E T C O D A F O U
 S A S N E T M E T A N A G U
 A R I E S R Y O M M E A L T
 L I A M S R F O M M E I L A C
 M F A M D S R E E F A I L A C
 G H N A R D S E E F A I L A C
 I J E N O R D S E E F A I L A C
 T O W E M O R D S E E F A I L A C

Answer on Page 6

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Friendship is one of the greatest gifts a human being can receive. It is a bond beyond common goals, common interests or common histories. It is a bond stronger than sexual union can create, deeper than a shared fate can solidify and even more intimate than the bonds of marriage or community.

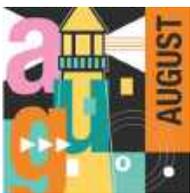
Friendship is being with the other in joy and sorrow, even when we cannot increase the joy or decrease the sorrow. It is a unity of souls that gives nobility and sincerity to love. Friendship makes all of life shine brightly.

Learning — and laughing — on the fly

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were “winging it,” bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

“This wasn’t planned,” wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn’t cause injury but quickly went viral. “But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful.”



Through the Bible in a year

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 21-23 | 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 13:17-19:10 | 21. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 60:10-65:25 |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 24:1-27:10 | 12. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 19:11-24:6 | 22. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 66; Jer. 1:1-2:25 |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 27:11-30:33 | 13. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 24:7-28:22 | 23. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 2:26-5:19 |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Prov. 31; Ecc. 1:1-3:8 | 14. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 28:23-32:20 | 24. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 5:20-8:22 |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Ecc. 3:9-8:17 | 15. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 33:1-37:29 | 25. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 9-12 |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Ecc. 9-12; Song 1-2 | 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 37:30-40:31 | 26. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 13:1-16:9 |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Song 3-8; Isaiah 1:1-9 | 17. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 41-44 | 27. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 16:10-20:18 |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 1:10-5:17 | 18. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 45-49 | 28. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 21-24 |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 5:18-9:12 | 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 50-54 | 29. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 25-27 |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 9:13-13:16 | 20. <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 55:1-60:9 | 30. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 28:1-31:20 |
| | | 31. <input type="checkbox"/> Jer. 31:21-33:26 |

C.O.V.I.D. - 19
 Christ over viruses and infectious diseases cto

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9



**There is POWER
in PRAYER**

*Pastor Keith invites you to join in
praying for the following names and causes.*

Friends and Family

Heritage Village
Vi Morse
Mary Krieg

Butterfield
The Mel Brinkman family

Riverside Senior Living
Jackie Wagner

Harvest View
Roscella Piper
Randy Riegel

Manteno Veterans
Bob Grob

From Our Church Bulletin

The Kirchner Family, The Panozzo, Cochran, & Diefenbach Families, Chuck Blankenship, Pat Bland, Carol Higginbotham's son, Terry, Candy and Keith Bauer, Janet Boyer's son Keith Bauer, Owen Buente, Carl & Kurt Boesen, Bradley Boor, Shirley Brunner, Carol Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Virginia Dittus, Pearl Evans, Bob Grob, Anna Hertz, Bill Hertz, Peggy Lane, The Logsdons, Mike Mau, Dorene O'Connor, Chuck & Kathy Quick and Kurt Quick, Kevin & Rob Reiniche, Jackie Wagner, Jodi, Richard & Ronald Wildman and continuing prayers for those in nursing homes, assisted living, or the home bound.

Compassion International Kids

- Melany Samantha.....Aguilera
- Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh
- Saray Morales.....Columbia
- Janny Boya.....Ecuador
- Witney Juarez.....Guatemala
- Janny Boya.....Ecuador

Do you or your family sponsor a compassion international kid? If so, please contact the office if you are still sponsoring a kid, 815-802-9805 or bonfieldgp@gmail.com.

| <u>JUNE 2020 ATTENDANCE</u> | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 06/07 | 06/14 | 06/21 | 06/28 |
| Evangelical | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| First | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Grand Prairie | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Total | 0 | 30 | 30 | 30 |

Returning Dishes



Pastor Keith would like to return dishes to those who have given him food, if you would like your dishes back. Please contact him at 309-830-0875, thanks.

August Memory Verse

Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

~ Matthew 28:20

Ladies' Book Club: All women who love to read are invited to the next meeting of the Ladies' Book Club. Each lady is responsible to get their own copy of the book, read and come to discuss. Make sure to check the Parish Facebook page for updates on dates, times, and book choice for August.

Community Lunch

(subject to change due to regulations)
at Bonfield Lions Building on Wednesday, August 19 at Noon. It will be held on every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Come and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends while sharing a meal for \$8.

Fellowship Breakfast

(subject to change due to regulations)

Come enjoy a great breakfast and fellowship with other Parish members and friends at IHOP in Bourbonnais on the first Tuesday of the month: August 4, September 1, and October at 8:30 am. This is a good way to get to know other people. You do not need to be a member to attend. Everyone is invited. Each person pays for their own breakfast.



United Methodist Women of the Parish

Purpose of the United Methodist Women -The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

Sunshine Circle -

Sunshine Circle Meetings 2020

September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17

First Church UMW -

The July meeting on the Prayer and Self-Denial program has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 6 at First church at 7pm.

***First UMW meets the third Thursday at 7PM at the church
(not in Jan/Feb/Aug)**

First UMW Meetings 2020

August 6: Meeting

September 17: Meeting

October 15: *World Thank Offering* program

November 19: Meeting

December 13: Christmas Potluck @ 5

Special dates: September 20 UMW Sunday, October 8 UMW program @ Evan w/soup & sandwiches

Martha Circle -

Martha Circle Meetings 2020:

September 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Jenny & Joyce

December 9: Meeting at 6PM hostesses Kim & Marilyn

Gift of God Street Church Meals: August 12: Cheri & Jenny, October 14: Marilyn & Kim, December 9: Linda S. & Janet

Evan UMW - Anyone interested in going to work at Midwest Distribution Center on August 12 please contact Christine Meyer or Dayle Seitz for more information The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at Christine Meyer's house at 1:30PM.

Evan UMW Meetings 2020 *All events are subject to change*

August 6: meeting at Chris Meyer's at 1:30PM

September 3: meeting in the Upper Room at 1:30PM

September 19: VRD Annual Fall Gathering Virtual (on computer—more info will come)

-Tentative date September 7 for pork chop Dinner

October 8: meeting in the Upper Room 6PM, soup and sandwiches meal with a guest speaker

November 5: Meeting in the Upper Room at 11:30AM brunch with speaker

November 8: Thank Offering

December 3: Christmas lunch at the Bonfield restaurant at 11:30AM

*Gift of God Street Church date to serve a meal is Sept. 9. You are welcome to help on any dates. If you would like to help prepare meals or serve please contact Christine Meyer at 815-939-2912. Meals are served at 5PM.

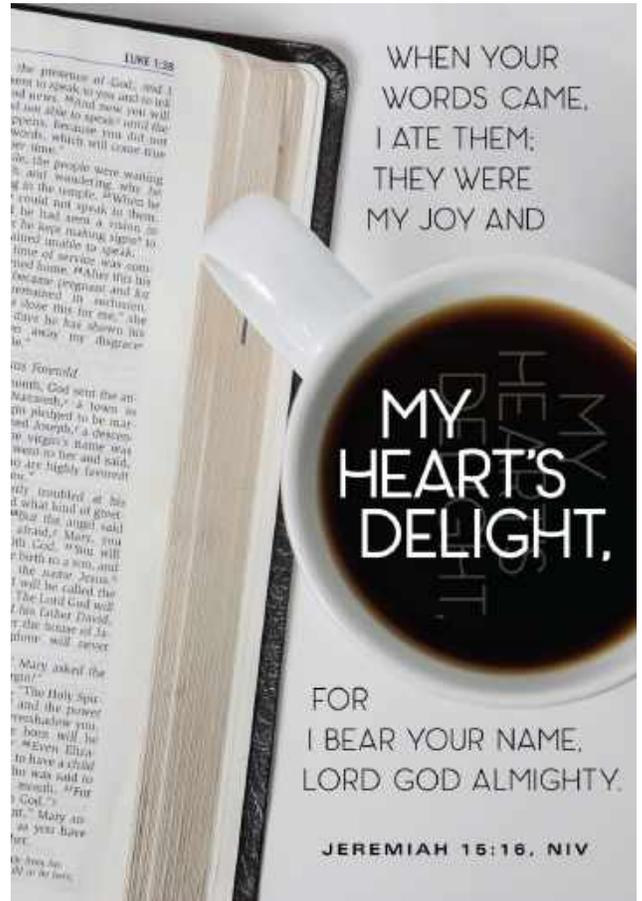
AUGUST Birthdays

- August 1 Matthew Diefenbach
- August 2 Samantha Weakley,
Dorothy (Wood) Riegel
- August 3 Faith Powell, Cameron Aldridge,
Sharon Lawrence,
Samantha Nottke, Russ White
- August 4 Peter Dato II, Stacey (Bennett) Shimmin
- August 5 Emma Werner
- August 7 Jason Berns, Carol (Campen) Kuipers,
Ardis (Pombert) Knight, Britton Kirk
- August 8 Mel Brinkman, Adam Messer
- August 10 Orlin Buente, Sharon (Buza) Pfeiffer
- August 13 Ronda (Grob) Wenzelman
- August 14 Linda (Buza) Rink, Benjamin Kirchner,
Janice Cadieux
- August 15 Dennis Bushman
- August 16 Angela Van Voorst, Reid Butler,
Jordan Mecklenberg
- August 17 Kim Jensen, Laura (Mau) Sackett,
Robert Rice, Jr., Gracyn Cordes
- August 18 Evan Larson, Cheri (Cochran) Dayton
- August 19 Dawn St. Germaine,
Stacy (Sharper) Ireland, Deanna Brinkman
- August 20 Kelly (Wenzelman) Turner
- August 21 Michael Rice, Christopher Wulff,
Kyle Wenzelman
- August 22 Darlene (Riegel) Charter
- August 23 Cole Wildman, Alexa Rae Colston
- August 24 Amanda Meyer, Tyler Werner
- August 25 Nathan Lindley, Brian Kingsland,
Barbara (Kuipers) Paetsch,
Buffy (Hamann) Kuipers, Megan Bradford
- August 26 Mary (Carlson) Meyer,
Ean Nathaniel Dittus
- August 27 John Brinkman
- August 28 Jakob Bouk, David Mickelson,
Connor Thorsten, Stacey Alrandi
- August 30 Criss (Hoffman) Crabb
- August 31 Rachel Jensen



Church Directory UPDATE

This is being POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR - Please let others know. If you have any questions, feel free to call Cheri Dayton at 815-671-8334 or contact by email at cheri_dayton@yahoo.com.
Thanks, Cheri



+Christian Symbol+ Willow

The billowing branches of the “weeping willow” symbolize mourning, especially of the Israelites as they endured captivity. The willow, which grows well in marshy areas, is associated in the Bible with fruitful, well-watered land (see Ezekiel 17:5). In descriptions of Old Testament festivals of praise, God’s people were told “to take branches from luxuriant trees — from palms, willows and other leafy trees — and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days” (Leviticus 23:40, NIV).

AUGUST 2020

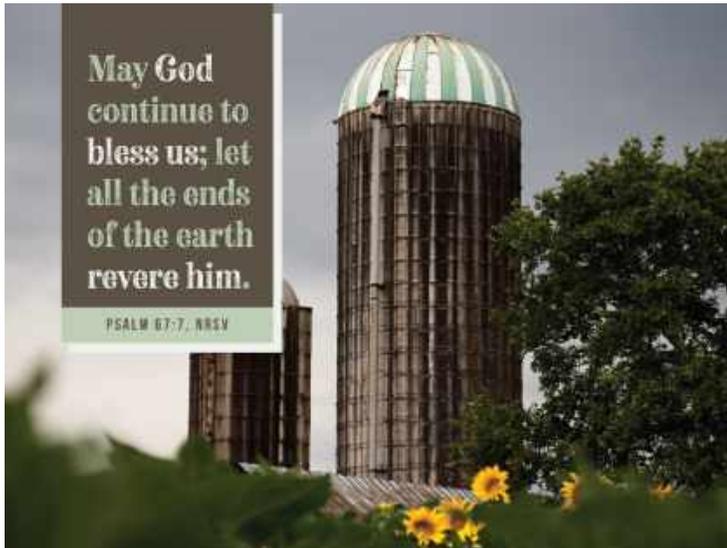
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|---|--------|----------|
| *ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO FOLLOW REGULATIONS* | *PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE & FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES* | | | | | 1 |
| 2 - Holy Communion | 3 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 4 - IHOP breakfast at 8:30PM | 5 | 6 - Evan UMW meeting at Christine Meyer's at 1:30PM - First UMW meeting at 7PM at First church | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 11 - Evan NOW meeting at Evan at 6PM - Parish NOW meeting at 6:30PM | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 18 - Newsletter Article Deadline 9AM | 19 - Community Lunch at the Lions Hall at Noon | 20 - Print Newsletter | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | 25 - Fold Newsletter at Evan at 8AM | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10AM | | | | | |

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.”

—James Dent



We are a Parish of 3 United Methodist churches: Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC, Bonfield First (First) UMC & Grand Prairie UMC. Our minister is Keith Blankenship. It is our goal to share God's love with the world through our words and actions! We welcome you to visit us for Sunday service that works best for you and/or your family at the times listed.

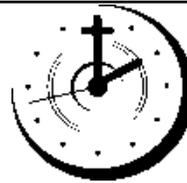


Salad Supreme

- 1 (3oz) package raspberry Jello
- 1 (21 oz) can cherry pie filling
- 1 (3 oz) lemon Jello
- 1 (3 oz) package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1 can (8 1/2 oz) crushed pineapple
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 container Cool Whip
- 2 Tablespoons chopped nuts

Dissolve raspberry Jello in 1 cup of boiling water. Stir in pie filling and pour into 9 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Chill until partially set. Dissolve lemon Jello in 1 cup boiling water. Beat together cream cheese and mayonnaise. Gradually add lemon Jello. Stir in undrained can of pineapple. Fold in 1/2 cup Cool Whip and 1 cup mini marshmallows. Spread on top of cherry pie filling and top with 2 tablespoons chopped nuts. Chill until set. Makes 12 servings.

~ Eileen Wisdom (Bart Durbin's mother) Holy Cross, Oklahoma City, OK



Time For Church

Bonfield First

at 172 Church Street Bonfield, IL
8:00 am Sunday Worship Services
9:15 am Sunday School

Bonfield Evangelical

at 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL
9:15 am Sunday Worship Service
No Sunday School until September

Grand Prairie

at 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL
10:30 am Sunday Worship Services
9:15 am Sunday School

Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: imredeemed59@gmail.com

Cell: (309) 830-0875

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11AM - 3PM
& evenings upon request

Mailing Address: 225 Country Lane
Bonfield, IL 60913

Parish Office Information

Hope Raymond, Secretary

348 E. Smith St., PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913

Phone: (815) 802-9805, please leave message

Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com

Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9AM - 1:30 PM

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Bonfield, IL 60913

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A Prayer For Our Students

Lord, thank you for the **unique gifts** of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with **fresh enthusiasm** and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your **enduring love**, give them **confidence and grace**, and equip them with the ability to **persevere** through trials. Bless their teachers with **wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve**, as they embark on the journey together! **Amen!**

