

SIoux CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

JUNE 2021

CONNECTION

630 First Ave SE /// Sioux Center, IA 51250 /// 712.722.0777
www.siouxcenterchristian.com /// sccsoffice@siouxcenterchristian.com

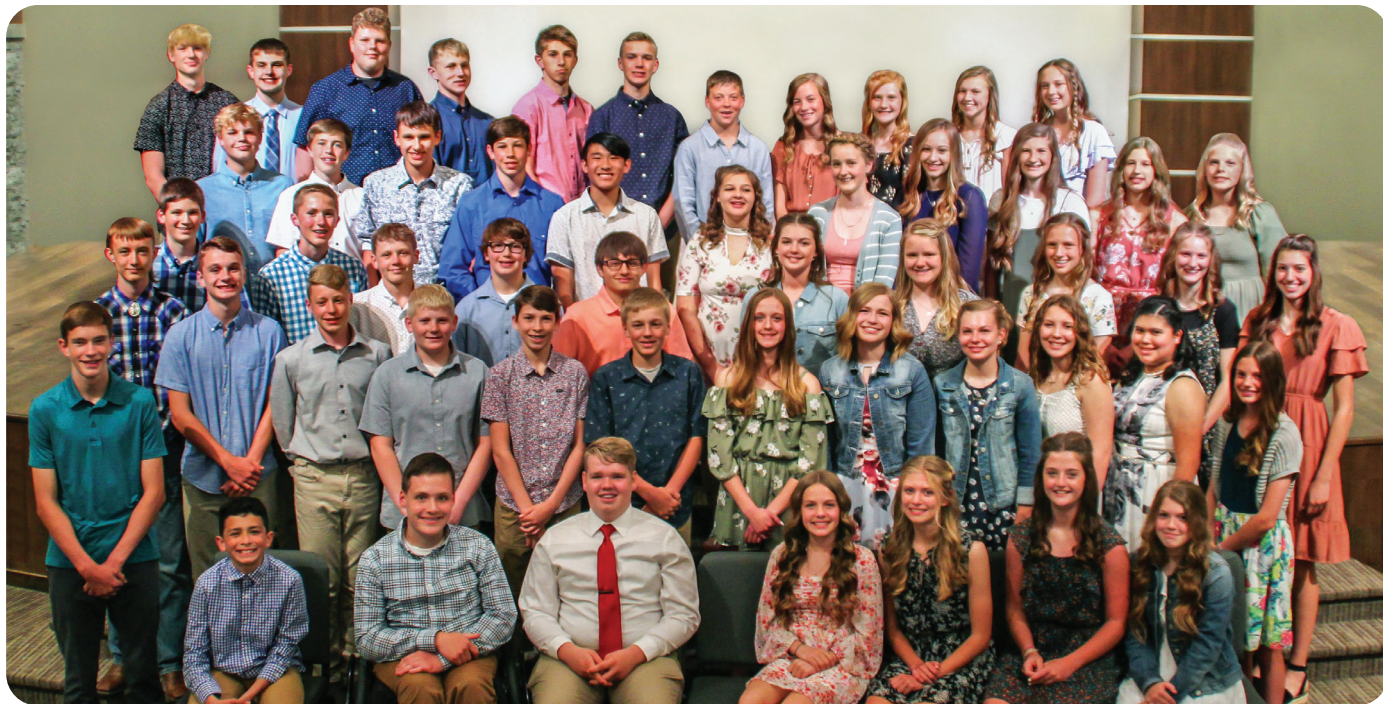


OUR MISSION

Disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play.

TREASURED, TRAINED,
TRANSFORMED

Class of 2021



On Wednesday, May 24, fifty-two 8th graders celebrated their journey of faith and learning at Sioux Center Christian School in a ceremony at First Reformed Church. Dr. Josh Bowar, head of school, challenged the graduates to choose courage over comfort as they go forth in the promises of Christ and continue to be active in the process of restoration. Each graduate also shared, through a video, their deep hope and storyline.

Greg Van Dyke, board president, handed diplomas to the graduates and, in closing, the faculty and staff gathered around all the graduates to send them off with prayer. Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments and a time of celebration.



Graduates, we praise God for His mighty work which is already evident in each of you. We pray that God will continue to work through you as you live His Story! May you serve Christ and work as His lifelong agents of restoration and transformation in the world!

Class of 2021: Omar Alvarez, Brianna Bakker, Brady Boogerd, Jaden Borchers, Braeden Bosma, Asa Byl, Alexa Calkhoven, Jaidyn De Jong, Maxwell De Jong, Gracie Dekkers, Tegan Doelman, Danielle Dykstra, Sydney Feenstra, Jenna Folkerts, Brynn Franken, Noah Franken, Marissa Haverhals, Brooklyn Hoogland, Wyatt Hulshof, Madelynn Koele, Lane Maassen, Adlemi Mejia-Vargas, Kellan Meyer, Karsten Moret, Avery Mouw, Deker Mulder, Hannah Mulder, Winni Nice, Christian Postma, Elizabeth Postma, Haley Punt, Reagan Roetman, Colton Roorda, Tyler Rozenboom, Lane Scholten, Addison Terpstra, Dorian Tintle, Traevin Van Beek, Eva Van Donkelaar, Beau Van Essen, Graden Van Essen, Cody Van Holland, Brody Van Kley, Kaden Van Regenmorter, Parker Van Roekel, Faith Van Voorst, Breckyn Van Vugt, Shyanne Van Wyk, Peyton Vander Veen, Lydia Vander Werff, Emma Wynia, and Ethan Wynia.

Class verse: "All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever." Micah 4:5

FROM Dr. B.

I hope you've had a great start to your summer. Whenever I ask someone how their summer is going, the most common response is: fast! As we slide further into summer, I hope you are finding time for relaxing, refreshment, and rejuvenation. Here's some encouragement from Mrs. Mouw if you need it: <https://bit.ly/3vKuxoq>.

As we look forward to 21-22, we can't help but raise our hands in praise to God for His faithfulness during 20-21. It was a school year like none other, but we were able to weather it - and learn and thrive - through leaning on Him. The decisions we've made have been guided by our commitment to treasure and train our students through on-campus learning, united with balanced health precautions to promote the physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual health of our students, employees, and families. Our planning was guided by what's feasible, practical, and tailored to the needs of our community. We challenged ourselves to make smart, thrifty, impactful decisions using the people, tools, structures, and equipment we already have in place, with the overall goal of providing on-campus learning.

Just about a year ago at this time, we were finishing our CO19 plans to start in the fall, not knowing how the year was going to go but putting our trust in God that He would guide us. As we look back, we have huge cause for celebration:

- We completed the entire school year with 100% face-to-face learning
- Students were able to be in school, learning under the direction of master teachers and with their classmates
- Social-emotional needs were met through implemented structures
- Students participated in field trips, special events, concerts, and learning experiences
- In an economically challenging year, our supporters blessed us by giving generously to complete the funding on our 2015 building expansion project
- We finished the school year in a mostly "normal" way

THANK YOU for your faithful support of SCCS during the last school year! We tried our very best to have a measured response to CO19 and look forward to getting things back to "normal" this fall - that's what's best for kids. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and dedication. You walked the road with us, and we are so thankful for that.

This verse continues to roll around in my head: *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."* Proverbs 16:3 Let's keep moving forward with commitment, purpose, unity, and determination into 21-22! Have a fantastic rest of your summer!

With you,

Joshua F. Bowar

CSI Accreditation Visit Results

At the end of April, an accreditation team came from CSI (they come every 5 years to help us analyze how well we are meeting our mission and to verify our ratings on a set of standards). We are thrilled to share the results of the visit! The team highlighted these commendations:

Sioux Center Christian School:

- Possesses a high-caliber faculty and administration who exhibit professional commitment to educating the hearts and minds of students.
- Has a Board that demonstrates wisdom in adopting mission-based governance and the creation of a board profile that ensures the appropriate expertise on the board to fulfill its fiduciary duties.
- Is blessed with strong, hard-working, and effective administrative leadership that seeks to live out the mission and vision of the school.
- Has weathered tremendous challenges and continues to flourish as a learning community.
- Cultivates a collaborative teaching and learning environment for faculty and staff.
- Is passionately pursuing Teaching for Transformation and inclusive education in order to fulfill the school's mission and vision more effectively.
- Fosters a God-honoring, supportive, and loving culture for faculty, staff, students, and families.

From the self-assessments we've been doing and the analysis of the visiting accreditation team, we've written the required school improvement plan, outlining steps we will be taking over the next 5 years to ensure that SCCS continues to provide the best possible Christian education for God's kids!



Stories from the Hallways

Several grades were blessed to go on field trips in April and May!



First and second graders enjoyed exploring the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls.



Third and fourth graders learned and tested their skills at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls.



Kindergarten visited the Oak Grove Nature Center to learn what plants and animals need to survive.



Seventh graders visited the zoo as a continuation of their science classes... seeing God's creation first hand!



Math Bee! In March, a 6th grade team participated in the Northwest AEA Math Bee. Our team demonstrated persistence and did a great job of using their math skills in this virtual competition! In May, Dordt University hosted a Virtual Math Bee for grades 4, 5, 7 and 8. Students were challenged with an individual round and a team problem solving round. The SCCS students involved had a great time and two of our teams (5th and 7th grades) received first place honors for their grade levels! **Congratulations to all these math students!**



As a wrap up activity for their WW2 unit, our 8th graders visited the Veterans Memorial where Mr. Dave Eekhoff shared stories from his time in service and expressed the importance of pledging allegiance to God, our family, and country.



Our spring track team included 26 students from 7th and 8th grades. Chris Ellens, Alan Bandstra, and Abby Finley faithfully led these athletes through early morning practices and area track meets.

On May 12, we hosted our first annual Trailblazer Invitational Track Meet. It was a beautiful day for over 1,000 5th through 8th graders from 16 area Christian schools to converge in Sioux Center and compete in various field and track events!



More Stories from the Hallways



On Thursday, May 20, our 5th – 8th grade students gave a vocal concert and our 3rd – 8th grade students gave an instrumental concert at the BJ Haan Auditorium. It was such a blessing to gather in person and hear the wonderful praises lifted to God through voice and instrument!

The 5th grade band played a song, *Sojourner*, written and directed by student Millie Brommer. Millie wrote the song during the CO19 school closure last spring and Mr. Peter Kuipers arranged it for band. If you would like to watch the concerts, go to www.sioxcenterchristian.com > *Students* > *Music*



Congratulations to Mrs. Linda Feekes on her retirement from teaching! We praise God for the gifts and talents she has shared to bless hundreds of students during her 29 years of service to SCCS!

Linda has served as a paraprofessional, a 1st grade teacher, 6th grade teacher, and as a 3rd grade teacher.

We pray for God's blessings on your retirement!



We had big plans for an outdoor Storyline Celebration Concert using our soccer field...but the weather forecast on Monday, May 24 predicted evening storms, so we gathered the students in the gym in the afternoon and recorded the songs they learned throughout the year. Our storyline was "Living God's Story as Agents of Restoration"

New babies!

We're excited to welcome new little treasures to the SCCS family!

Katelyn Grace joined the home of Steph (Resource teacher) and Matt Peters on March 16.

Raegan Lynn joyfully arrived to Timae (Paraprofessional) and Jacen Saavedra on March 24.

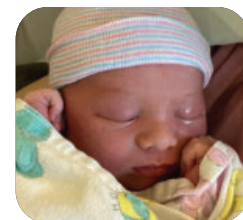
Megan (4th grade teacher) and LeRoy Winter, along with big sister Alayna (5 yrs), welcomed **Hunter LeRoy** to their family on June 16.



Katelyn



Raegan



Hunter



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: At their Monday, June 21 meeting, outgoing trustees Chad Feenstra and Arlene Heynen were honored and thanked for their 6 years of service to the mission of SCCS. Chad brought calm confidence to the team, and Arlene brought insight and perspective. Both were actively involved in several changes and events of the school over the past 6 years (from a change in governance model to inclusive education to Teaching for Transformation to a building project to 2 rounds of accreditation to working through crisis and more). We praise God for their faithful service! Please continue to pray for our entire board of trustees: New trustees,

Darren Raih and Jay Dekkers; continuing trustees, Joe Bakker, Renae Calkhoven, Greg Van Dyke, Michael De Boer, Kelly Franken, Dennis Vander Plaats, and Lori Walstra.

Science Education Collaboration

We are excited to announce a new collaboration initiative between Sioux Biochemical and Sioux Center Christian School! SiouxBio will be providing \$10,000 per year to SCCS to support science education in grades 5-8 through providing training for teachers, materials, student experiences, and more.

"I am a product of Christian education and firmly believe faith has a role in science," said SiouxBio founder and president Allan Kramer of Sioux Center. "My number one goal of this collaboration is to promote the study of science to better understand and appreciate God's creation." (quote from *Sioux Center News* article, June 16, 2021) How the money is used each year may vary but could include purchasing equipment, resources or support field trips.

This past year, Helen Metselaar, an SCCS parent and senior scientist at SiouxBio, saw a way to support the study of microbiology in our middle school grades by providing agar plates and volumetric flasks for studying the growth of bacteria and performing other experiments. This initiative builds on that initial partnership and brings an exciting real-world connection to our students as they study God's creation, sparking awe, wonder and curiosity!

THANK YOU, Sioux Biochemical for adding this exciting depth to our science studies!



Summer Building Improvements

With no students in the building, the sounds change from singing and learning to cleaning and building improvements. Besides the regular summer cleaning and maintenance, we're excited to have the following updates happening as well! Our building is our hub of learning, and we want to keep it as updated as possible. Funding is covered through various grants, CO19 funds, and the building depreciation fund.

- A big focus on the west wing: painting (including adding wall designs and getting rid of the old green tile!), new ceiling tiles, LED lighting, tiling around drinking fountains, updating the bathrooms by the old office and the ramp (a full refresh!), hallway rugs
- New furniture for 4Care and grades 1-3
- New roof for the south hallway and kitchen
- Replacing all remaining SMART Boards with touchscreen TVs
- A new sensory path for students, installed outside the lunchroom.



8th Grade Inquiry Fair

On May 7, our 8th graders hosted an Inquiry Fair. The theme of the fair was "How can we obediently serve God and others through building a brighter community?"

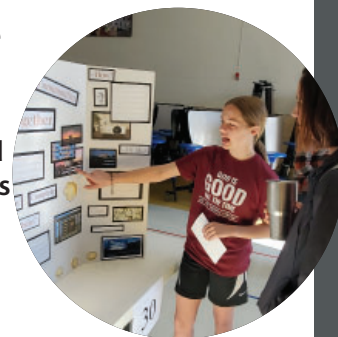
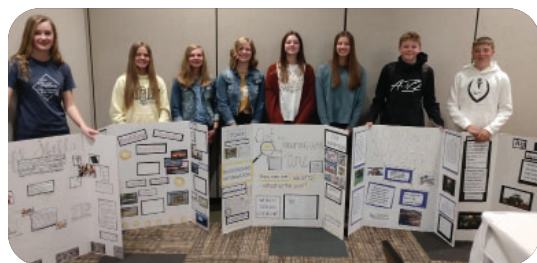
The students posed and studied a research question, then built a presentation board that explained the background of their topic and shared their ideas about how to build a brighter community. They practiced their presentations and also prepared themselves for any questions the judges might pose.

Four area business leaders and four school leaders took time to serve as judges and the top five ideas/presentations were invited to present to Leadership Sioux Center, which is a Sioux Center Chamber program. At this event, the students received real feedback

about the benefits and the feasibility of their ideas. The students also had an opportunity to tour the businesses of the judges.

Those five teams then considered the feedback and then evaluated and chose the best ideas to present to the SCCS Board of Trustees, who chose three ideas and provided funding for them to be implemented through the minimester program next school year!

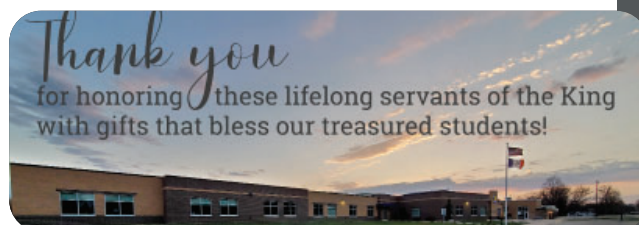
Impressive work, 8th graders! #communitybuilders



In Memory of God's Faithful Servants

With gratitude to God, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following memorial gifts:

Leonard (Red) Van Bommel – Building Fund
Hertilda (Herkie) Davelaar – Building Fund



Changes to the SCCS Legacy Plan

Thank you to our constituents and churches for your strong and faithful support of The Legacy Plan. The Legacy Plan is a unique partnership between SCCS and area churches, one that began over 70 years ago. We are thankful for the accessibility to Christian education that this church partnership provides for many families!

Current Legacy giving for 20-21: \$ 983,876

Projected Legacy giving for 20-21: \$ 1,270,415 (budgeted goal is \$1,340,025)

The Legacy Plan fiscal year ends July 31. Thank you for your faithful giving to help us finish strong!



We would like to share some adjustments that are being made to The Legacy Plan starting the 21-22 school year. Since the 2016-17 school year, every child has received the same discount to tuition based on projected Legacy Plan donations from churches.

Unfortunately, not all churches have participated in The Legacy Plan, which has resulted in the school providing discounts that were not funded. **For the 2021-22 school year, churches will decide their level of per-student support to the Legacy Plan, which will translate into a Legacy Plan discount for each child who attends their church.** Families who attend a church that does not commit to supporting the Legacy Plan will not receive a Legacy Plan discount. This year and the past two budget years, the school has faced a \$150,000-\$200,000 gap between Legacy discounts given and amount received in donations, which is not sustainable, so the board has been studying adjustments that need to be made.

Based on recommendations from the Legacy Plan Task Force, the SCCS Board of Trustees decided upon the following:

- SCCS will charge one tuition rate, with tuition reflecting the actual cost of education (the full value)
- Every child starts with the same tuition rate, and then discounts are applied
- Tuition grants can help with the gap (but not 100%)
- Churches decide what to give per student, with a per student cap set at 36% of the full cost of education
- If churches give less, families pay more in tuition; if churches give more, families pay less in tuition
- All churches are given the opportunity to join the Legacy Plan
- The tuition grant process is very welcoming, confidential, and easy to use through the use of a 3rd party

What will this look like at registration?

- Every student (TK – 8th grade) will start at the same tuition rate
- Discounts will be applied to each child's tuition, as applicable:

TK/K discount (they are part-time students)

Multi-child discount (starting with child 2)

Alternate Revenue discount (due to income from Outlet 75, Tales & Trails, 4Care, Foundation, etc.)

Government Funding discount (bus reimbursement, school lunch reimbursement)



- Potential TRIP payout
- Potential SCCS tuition grant
- Legacy Plan discount (if your church has committed to giving to the Legacy Plan)

We believe shifting to this new model provides more equity between churches and a greater understanding of the benefit of The Legacy Plan, and we stand ready to partner with families throughout the transition. We have been communicating and meeting with families and will continue to do so. **We covet your prayers as we work through these important transitions, and we praise God for the opportunity to have The Legacy Plan!**

A banner with a background image of a yellow school bus. On the left, the text 'SIOUX CENTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL' is written vertically. A large white cross is superimposed over the bus. The main text reads: 'Would you like to GIVE A DONATION that benefits SCCS 100% while also giving YOU 75% back? (in the form of an Iowa income tax credit. This is an INCREASE from 65%)'.

SIOUX CENTER
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Would you like to **GIVE A DONATION** that **benefits SCCS 100%** while also **giving YOU 75% back?**
(in the form of an Iowa income tax credit. This is an INCREASE from 65%)

NICSTO Tuition grants are our largest source of tuition assistance grants! When you give a donation to NICSTO, you benefit by receiving 75% of your gift back and SCCS students are impacted by 100% of your gift! Look for the form in your church mailbox or go to siouxcenterchristian.com > Support SCCS > NICSTO

SCCS Calendar

Our calendar is also at www.siuoxcenterchristian.com

NOTE! Monday, June 28 through Monday, July 5:
School office & TRIP office are CLOSED for a summer break!

Summer hours resume Tuesday, July 6:

TRIP Office: 8am - 1pm M-F

School Office: 8am - 1pm M-Th (closed on Fridays)

Aug 9-13, 16-20: Teacher Work Days, Professional Development, Flex Worktime, and meetings

Thursday, Aug 12: School Registration 2-8pm at school
All parents must register at this time or make other arrangements with the school office.

Thursday, Aug 12: Parent-Teacher Conferences 2-8pm
Your opportunity to meet with homeroom teachers!

Monday, Aug 23: Open House 5:30-7:00pm

Tuesday, Aug 24: First Day of School 8:05am - 3:05pm

Position Openings

We have a couple position openings available at Sioux Center Christian School for the next school year!

Part-time Paraprofessional position:

Supporting a second-grade student one-on-one both in the classroom and during individual work time. The hours for this position are 8am-3pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

Part-time Cook position:

We are looking for a hardworking, dependable, detail-oriented person to serve in this position. Responsibilities include prepping and serving meals, cleaning, and other kitchen tasks, with hours of 7:30am-1:30pm three to five days per week.



Bus Drivers are also needed (any combination of route or activity bus driving).

Go to the siouxcenterchristian.com > **About SCCS > Employment** for more details on the positions and information on how to apply.

Donate Used PE Uniforms!

For many years, our 7th and 8th graders have worn a uniform for their twice-a-week PE classes, to ensure appropriate clothing and to provide a sense of team during various PE activities.

We continue that requirement and are hoping to gather used uniforms out there that won't be handed down to another child. Do you have a **current style** PE uniform (started in 2014) laying around that **you would be willing to donate to SCCS**? We hope to start a loan program with the uniforms, instead of asking parents to purchase them. These uniforms have worn well through the years!

Please see the picture for the design of shirt and shorts we are looking for and drop them off at the school office by July 22. **Thank you!**

The shirts have all been the same style with the same Trailblazers design since 2014. There are probably about four different styles of black shorts (9" and 11" inseams), but they all have a blue SCCS logo on one leg.

4Care for Preschoolers

Sioux Center Christian School offers a play-based, child-care opportunity for 4-years-olds enrolled in preschool called 4Care. This is a great place for your child during the half of the day they are not in preschool.



This year we are offering the options of a morning or afternoon session, with busing between SCCS and preschool included in the cost. Hot lunch is an available add-on option.

There's still room for this coming school year! Your child will love this "step up" child-care in the "big school"!

Head to our website to learn more and reserve your child's place in 4Care: siouxcenterchristian.com > **Admissions > 4Care for Preschoolers**

Tales and Trails Summer Camp

There's still time to sign up for Tales and Trails Summer Camp! This is the 3rd year we are offering an educational and FUN summer supervision option for your kids.

Half-day and full-day options are available. Summer Camp is open to any children of the community who are 5-11 years of age by June 1.

Forms are available outside the TRIP office or online siouxcenterchristian.com > **Admissions > Tales and Trails Summer Camp Info**



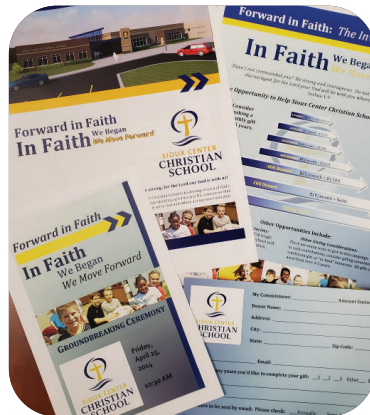
SO THANKFUL

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY towards our 2015 Building Expansion Project...GIVING since 2013!



GOD PROVIDED

the ENTIRE \$6.8 MILLION in just 8 YEARS!



THROUGH YOU!

YOU GAVE of the TREASURES God has given you to provide for this headquarters of GOD'S MISSION through SCCS!

As of May 24, 2021, God has provided through His people ALL that we need to
COMPLETE the funding on the biggest building project in our school's history!

We PRAISE GOD for His Hand on the building project and we THANK ALL our supporters for your
GENEROSITY over the past eight years ... giving a total of \$6.8 million toward the building expansion!!
(\$609,000 was given over the last eight months!)

Our building isn't just bricks and mortar...it's the headquarters of God's mission through SCCS and we are
daily blessed to train God's treasures within these walls!

THANK YOU and JOIN US in lifting our PRAISE and THANKSGIVING to GOD!

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