October 2026 Volume 19, Issue 10

THE LAMPLIGHTER



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"Finding Strength in the Waiting: A Reflection on Isaiah 40:31"

By Kevin Guiffre

In a world that celebrates speed, efficiency, and "getting it done now," the biblical call to "wait" can feel counterintuitive—or even frustrating. We often view waiting as a pause, a delay, or a dead end in our progress. However, the prophet Isaiah offers us a much more hopeful perspective. In Isaiah 40:31, he reminds us that waiting isn't a pause in our journey; it is the very birthplace of our strength.

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31, ESV) Cont. page 5

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LA PLATA



Security:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
4th	Marion S.	Al L., Raphael C.
11th	Courtney H.	Bob M., Terry M.
18th	Norma S.	Jennifer M., Jim M.
25th	Kevin G.	Brian M., Jerry P.

Children's Worship:

4th Jennifer C., Sally P., Kayla H.
11th Stephanie W., Sherri B.
18th Kristen G., Ashleigh G.
25th Amanda N., Abby P.

Nursery:

4th Norma S., Donna F.
11th Norma S., Stephanie W.
18th Norma S., Abby P.
25th Norma S., Cecelia S., Erin H.

Greeter Schedule:

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
4th	Bobby J.	Dave B.
11th	Gary B.	Patrick H.
18th	Marion S.	Robby J.
25th	Glenn M.	Andy G.



Julie entered a patriotic afghan & won 1st prize!





Congratulations!

CHARLES COUNTY FAIR







Dakota's Alpine Doe was a 4-H Champion, Aaliyah won Best of Show with her 4-H Ram and Brynna's Toggenburg Doe was a champion! They also won numerous other awards.

A Letter from Christ



Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote: "And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV). What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul teminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others. The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him. What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ".

October

SCHEDULE

October 1	Women on Mission 9:45 am
October 3	Mission Warriors 9 am Safeway Food Drive 9 am
October 4	Benevolence Offering Life Chain 1:45 pm
October 5	Deacons' Meeting 7 pm
October 9	Merry Widows 12 pm
October 10	Brotherhood 9 am Hooks & Needles 9 am
October 11	Pastor Appreciation Sunday
October 15	Visitation Ministry 9:45 am
October 17	Fall Fellowship @ Sheri's 4 pm
October 18	SBA Accoc. Meeting 4 pm
October 31	Trunk or Treat
Sundays	AWANA 5:30 pm
Tuesdays	Men's & Women's Bible Studies 10 am
Thursdays	English (as) Second Language 5:30pm
Fridays	Youth Bible Study 6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study 7 pm

Fall Food Drive:

Please join us for a food drive at the La Plata Safeway... we need volunteers to ensure a successful event and to fill our Thanksgiving Food baskets. There is a sign-up sheet for 2-hour slots on the Welcome Desk. Any questions, contact Dean Irwin 240-682-5397.

WHEN: OCT 3rd

TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(sign up for a slot)

WHERE: La Plata Safeway

Meet at the church at 8:30, for those that are first shift





Our ESL ministry was invited to a latino community event held at local church in Waldorf on 9/19/26. Bella & Jenny set up a table to invite others to join our FBC group.

Caribbean Cruise

Sail away with Glory Way on the *Carnival Freedom* Feb. 8, 2027 - Feb. 13, 2027. Please see the WC for flyers with more info.

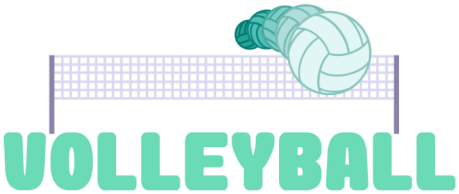
New library theme: *Christian Growth & Living*
Check out the new display!

Discerning & Judging
Purpose & Significance
Evangelism & Discipleship
Repentance
Faith
Sanctification & Growth
Gifts & Talents
Stewardship & Finance
Gospel & Salvation
Temptation
Prayer
Membership & Serving
Truth

The ESL Ministry is looking for someone to volunteer as a greeter for their Thursday evening classes. We would like someone who is puntual to greet & direct students to their classes when they arrive. Please contact Bella @ 240-320-7613.



October 11th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday and we will celebrate!



UPWARD devotions: if you would like to share a brief devotion before a volleyball game, let Bro. Gary know. Devotions are at 10:55am & 11:55am every Saturday form 9/5 to 10/10.

Cont. from p.1

More Than Just Marking Time

The Hebrew word for "wait" in this passage carries a much deeper meaning than just sitting idle. It implies expecting, trusting, and remaining tethered to God. To wait for the Lord is to choose an active posture of hope. It is like a branch remaining connected to the vine—it is the source of all our life and capability. When we wait, we aren't doing nothing; we are choosing to lean our full weight upon God's promises rather than our own limited resources.

The Lesson of the Eagle

Isaiah uses the beautiful image of an eagle to describe this process. When an eagle catches an updraft, it doesn't need to constantly flap its wings to stay aloft. Instead, it "sets its wings," trusting the invisible power of the wind to carry it higher than it could ever fly on its own.

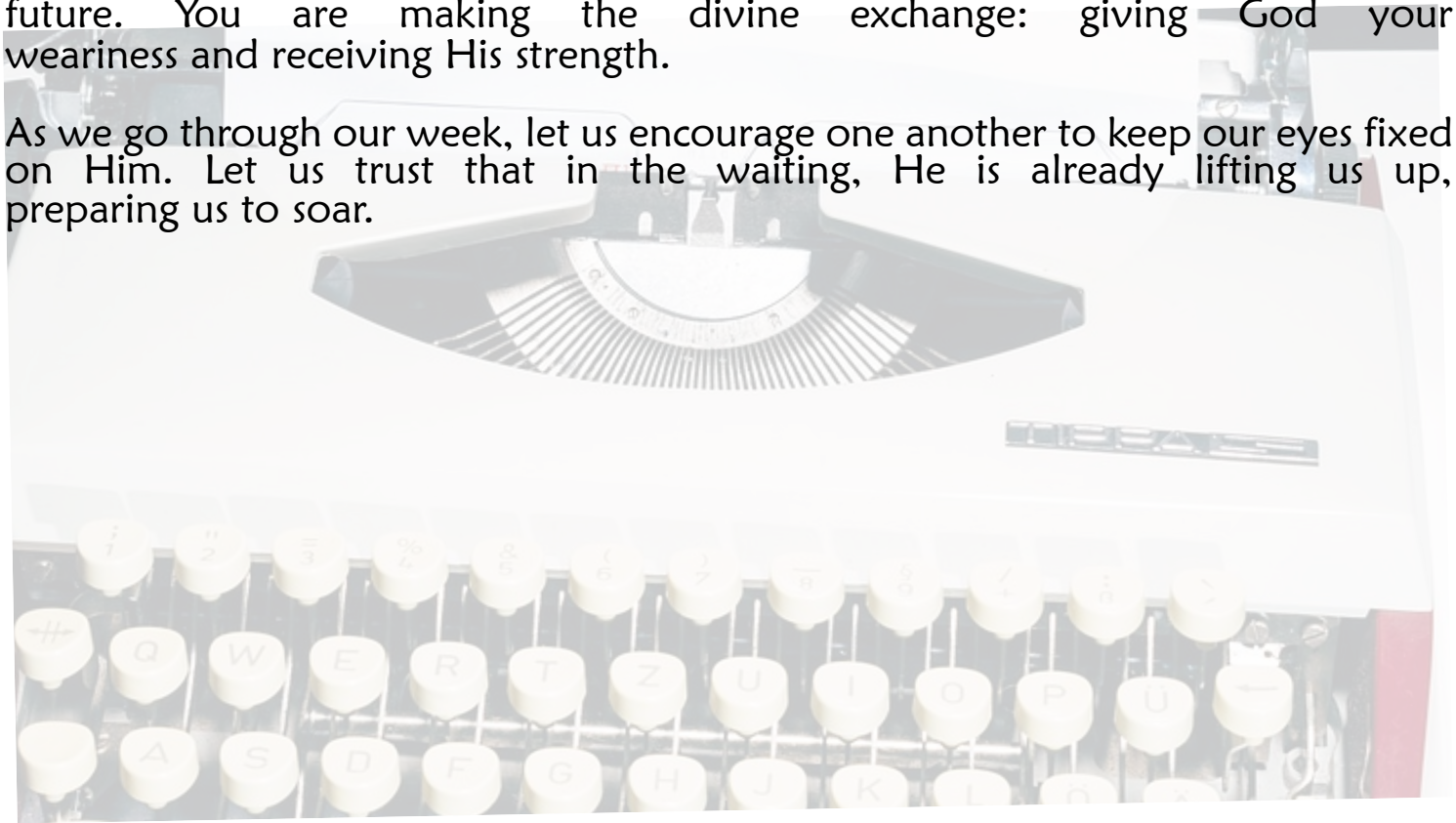
There is a powerful lesson here for us as a church family. Often, we exhaust ourselves by frantically "flapping"—trying to force outcomes, worrying about the future, or relying solely on our own stamina. But Isaiah invites us to "set our wings." When we choose to wait on the Lord, we stop the frantic striving and position ourselves in the stream of God's grace, allowing His power to lift us above the anxieties and obstacles that threaten to wear us down.

An Invitation to Trust

If you find yourself in a season of waiting today—perhaps waiting for clarity, healing, a new door to open, or an answer to a persistent prayer—take heart. You are not standing still. You are gathering strength.

You are learning to trust that the One who holds the stars in place also holds your future. You are making the divine exchange: giving God your weariness and receiving His strength.

As we go through our week, let us encourage one another to keep our eyes fixed on Him. Let us trust that in the waiting, He is already lifting us up, preparing us to soar.



the Merry Widows had a painting party & created beautiful butterflies!











Jan Saal started a Bible study.







