

# The Banner



by Pastor John Mochel

THE YOUNG MAN WHO KILLED CHARLIE KIRK WAS SURELY PSYCHOTIC AND POSSIBLY DEMONIZED. Why else would someone commit such a cowardly crime? It was discouraging, but unsurprising, to learn that the assassin was deeply influenced by what he found on the internet. His social media involvement fueled his psychosis, and he became a killer.

This is unsurprising because we are seeing this dynamic widely in our society. Not that every young person using social media becomes deranged, but it certainly can lead to all

sorts of depression, self-harm, deceptions, anger, and simply a general sedentary waste of time.

In March of 2025, a Harris Poll surveyed more than 500 children ages 8 to 12 across the United States, who were assured that their answers would remain private. A majority reported having smartphones, and about half of the 10-to-12-year-olds said that most or all their friends use social media.

This digital technology has given kids access to virtual worlds, where they're allowed to roam far more freely than in the real one. About 75

percent of kids ages 9 to 12 regularly play the online game Roblox, where they can interact with friends and even strangers. But most of the children in the survey said they aren't allowed to be out in public at all without an adult. Fewer than half of the 8- and 9-year-olds have gone down a grocery-store aisle alone; more than a quarter aren't allowed to play unsupervised even in their own front yard.

An entire generation is learning to live in a fake world where they may not even know who they are meeting.

What is the solution?

**Get off the internet. Live real life. Do real things. Talk to real people. Get your kids to do real things.**

When my four kids were in middle school and then high school, we were at the beginning of the smart phone era. It was in Emily's freshman year that the public school distributed iPads to the entire class. It was an educational disaster. No one could really control what the students did with their technology. The weakest students were the most vulnerable to internet distractions. COVID and 2020 only made all the problems worse.

Now, parents and schools are inundated. No one knows what to do. Kids are not learning. I would like to share just a few practices that helped our

(Continued on pg. 2)

## PASTOR JOHN MOCHEL

201 S 11th  
Beresford SD 57004

[jmmochel@outlook.com](mailto:jmmochel@outlook.com)

C: (605) 351-6630

H: (605) 763-2423

## BROOKLYN EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

46916 296TH ST  
BERESFORD SD 57004

[BrooklynEFC@outlook.com](mailto:BrooklynEFC@outlook.com)

Website: [brooklynefc.org](http://brooklynefc.org)

Church Office: (605) 957-4372

## PRAYER MINISTRY

KATE ERICKSON

[erickboyles@live.com](mailto:erickboyles@live.com)

Call or text Kate

C: (605) 661-6320

family. Your family is different, so you will have to make your own way. But this might give you a few ideas:

- 1. You get a phone when you are driving and not before. You keep it only if you can prove yourself trustworthy. After all, dad pays for the phone, so it's dad's phone. And if dad ever calls or texts, you had better answer. That is why you have the phone.
- 2. No phones or computers in the bedrooms ever. Kids will fight you on this. They will come up with reasons, so many reasons. There is no rule more important than this one!

Dad: *No phones in the bedroom.*

Junior: *Aww. Dad! But I have to get up in the morning. I need the alarm!*

Dad: *Good point. Let me think about that.*

Junior: *Yes!*

Dad, an hour later: *Ok, I'll buy you an alarm clock. You pick it out.*

- 3. All the computers stay in one room of the house, the study. They are tools for learning. This actually makes for better family dynamics and keeps those machines from running the home. And put the TV in the basement or the trash. When I was a kid I read books, did puzzles, built electronics, and constructed model airplanes in my bedroom. They won't like this either, but it saved our family.
- 4. Dad checks all your technology regularly, whenever he wants.
- 5. Report any unwanted communication or porn that arrives.
- 6. Be sure that mom and dad know every person that you are communicating with on your phone or computer. We just want to know that these are real people.
- 7. No purchasing anything ever online without talking to dad first.

It is important to have discussions with your kids as early as possible about all these things. That way they know what to expect and know the reasons why. It is amazing how

much they can understand. With most kids, you can begin loosening restrictions as they get older, because once they are 18, you lose control entirely, unless you are still paying the bills.

Finally, get out and do stuff as a family. Weekly. When you do, have everyone leave their phones behind, except dad, just in case the car dies.



## An Uplifting Summer Experience!

**Solomon Saugstad**

Solomon Saugstad spent 5 weeks this summer with the Pursuit Program at UpLift Mountain. This 200-acre Christian camp is located near Westcliffe, Colorado and provides week long discipleship programs for teenagers. The camp's purpose is to encourage and equip Christians to follow Jesus. This is done in a variety of ways including mountain climbing, archery, woodworking, and obstacle courses along with daily Scripture study and chapel.

Solomon reports the Pursuit Program which was held for camp leaders during the weeks campers weren't present, helped him grow closer to God, and enhanced his understanding of a variety of topics that were discussed. He led teenaged campers in mountain climbing and woodworking. He was also able to introduce some unchurched teens to the Bible and salvation.

Overall, Solomon learned the discipline side of being a Christian and to live with intentionality. This was fostered by living in a rustic cabin, cold mountain spring showers, and doing without phones or electronic devices. Solo time was spent studying The Word, reading books by C. S. Lewis and exploring nature.

If you are interested in learning more about UpLift Mountain, please talk to Solomon or visit this website: [upliftmountain.com](http://upliftmountain.com).

## Oyate Concern Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Pray that preschool students would have regular attendance and strong support from their families
- ◆ Pray for continued growth in the teen & children's programs
- ◆ Pray that the adults in the leadership training program will persevere and complete the course



# Upcoming Events, etc.

OCT  
7

Tuesday, 6:30pm

## *Meet Me In the Bible... The Story of Abraham*

This Women's Bible Study is a simple, five-step framework designed to help you read your Bible. It incorporates the time-tested stages of Bible reading: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. We will be meeting in the youth building every two weeks on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Doreen ASAP at 605.957.4266 and a book will be ordered for you. For more info on the study, go to: [colleensearcy.com/meetmeinthebible](http://colleensearcy.com/meetmeinthebible)

OCT  
10-11

Friday, 5:00pm - Saturday, 4:00pm

## *Women's Retreat, Inspiration Hills*

If you haven't signed up yet, please do so today! Speaker, Michelle DeLay will inspire and encourage you in your walk with the Lord. Outdoor activities, crafts, food, fun and fellowship await you! Cost will be \$20. Items to bring: your Bible & jammies as it's a sleep over!

OCT  
26

Sunday, 10:30am

## *Harvest Festival*

With so much to be grateful for, we invite you to celebrate God's abundant goodness to us by lifting our hearts and voices in praise to Him. Following our time of worship, we will gather together in the fellowship hall for our fall feast and fellowship with one another. If you are able, please provide a main dish and a salad or dessert to share.

NOV  
16

Due Sunday

## *Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*

Each shoebox you prayerfully prepare opens doors to share the Gospel and is a tangible expression of God's love. You can bless children and their families with the Good News of Jesus by picking up a shoe box and label beginning October 5 and return to church by November 16th.

ETC.

The kitchen seems to be missing a number of the plastic water pitchers that are used for serving at fellowship dinners as well as the plastic pitcher to fill the coffee maker. Also, dish towels and dish cloths seem to leave the drawer and not find their way back home. We greatly appreciate when the used ones are laundered, and even more grateful when they return back to their home in the kitchen. If any of these things are hanging out at your home or if you know their whereabouts, we thank you in advance for returning them.



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
			<b>1</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>2</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>3</b> FH, Nursery, Hallway carpet cleaning	<b>4</b>  3p Help return room contents after carpet cleaning
<b>5 Communion</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship  6p Evening Study	<b>6</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>7</b> 8a-4p CC 9a-2p DTS  630p Abraham Study	<b>8</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>9</b> 9:30a Bethesda Service  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>10</b> 9a Elder Board 6-9p CC, Rm.1  6:30p Youth Game Night  <i>Women's Retreat, Inspiration Hills</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship  6p Evening Study	<b>13</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9a Ministerial Mtg. 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>16</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship  6p Evening Study	<b>20</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>21</b> 8a-4p CC 9a-4p Pastor in Alta, IA  6:30p Abraham Study	<b>22</b>  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth  <i>Pastor Training Workshop, Ins. Hills</i>	<b>23</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>24</b>  5p Youth supper @ Johnson's	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 12p Potluck	<b>27</b>  6:30p Pathways 7p Dig Deeper	<b>28</b> 8a-4p CC	<b>29</b> 12p Community Study  6:30p Awana, AIC Youth	<b>30</b>  7:30p Men's Discipleship	<b>31</b>	

#### Happy Birthday:

3 Loren Lewison  
7 Tavin Lewis  
7 Elijah Stake  
8 Bishop Meier  
13 Shelley Morrison  
16 Brian Erickson  
17 Audrey Stake

19 Jon DeLay  
19 Owen Bovill  
20 Ben Snook  
22 Nora Hyronimus  
22 Barb Koth  
24 Rose Snook  
25 Rob Dressen

26 Rhonda Wynia  
27 Bethany Hoffman  
29 Zoe Adam  
30 Gracie Buss

#### Happy Anniversary:

17 Ricky & Jen Gordon

# MINISTRY AND WORSHIP

## October 5

AM | John 10:22-42, Communion  
Theme | "If You are the Christ, Tell Us Plainly"  
PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## October 12

AM | John 11:1-27  
Theme | Martha  
PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## October 19

AM | John 11:28-46  
Theme | Raising Lazarus  
PM | Evening Study, Concise Theology

## October 26

AM | John 11:47-57, Harvest Festival  
Theme | One Man Must Die  
PM | No Evening Study

*Pastor John & Nancy,*

*You bring the message of  
God's word alive in so many ways ...  
through your inspiring sermons,  
your dedication to our church,  
and your desire to be an example  
of Jesus' love to others!*

*With our sincere appreciation  
for your dedicated service!  
You are a blessing to this congregation!*

*Matthew 25:23*

*October is  
Pastor Appreciation Month*

# MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
10/5	C/M DeLay	Audrey Stake Memphis Meier	B VanHofwegen Andrew Bovill	Communion	Allen Sveeggen
10/12	K/R Leikvold	Stacy Sims Clara Sims	Connie Pierce Elsie Bovill	Men's Quartet	Reid Jensen
10/19	A Sveeggen	Jackie Krebs Grace Paulson	Nancy Mochel Bethany Hoffman	Audrey Stake	Sandy Fahlberg
10/26	R/M Jensen	Nancy Swanstrom Abby Wergin	Colleen Buss Sara Hoffman	Hannah Bird	Dan Paulson
11/2	D/M Nelson	Hannah Bird Audrey Bird	Audrey Stake Anna Kelderman	Open	Jerrold Wynia
11/9	M/K Bovill	Jen Gordon Lewie Gordon	Julie Saugstad Abby Wergin	Zech Stake	Rhonda Wynia
11/16	C/S Carnes	Karla Bovill Isaac Bovill	Brittany VHofwegen Sydney DeLay	Tim White	Ted Lewis
11/23	T/H Lewis	Nancy Mochel Selah Stake	Connie Pierce Payden Hoffman	Open	Eric Adam
11/30	J/C Pierce	Michelle DeLay Sydney DeLay	Nancy Mochel Andrew Bovill	Rylee Adam	Arlyn Abrams

**October Worship Leader:** Brian Fahlberg  
**Keyboard:** Doreen Fahlberg  
**Ushers:** Jeremy Saugstad, Allen Sveeggen,  
Ted Lewis, Chris DeLay

**November Worship Leader:** John Fahlberg  
**Keyboard:** Connie Twedt  
**Ushers:** Clif Carnes, Andy German,  
Reid Jensen, Eric Adam



