

## Pastoral Priorities (from Nate)



*In addition to hosting many meals at home for life-on-life equipping, we also hosted bonfires & sunset-watches during COVID!*

One of the things that came through loud and clear during my sabbatical studies last fall was that church elders must focus on shepherding (a.k.a. pastoring) God's people. A corollary lesson is that, just as Jesus was choosy about who He discipled, I must also make strategic shepherding choices; I don't have to say yes to every request. One of the practical outcomes is that I've decided to shift the balance of my ministry time in order to invest

more in the parents of the church. Thus, Paula and I started teaching a Bible study on parenting that is reaching about half the people in our congregation in person and on Zoom (plus a few families in other churches), and I'm helping an Army guy in our church facilitate a Dad prayer group. Meanwhile, my ongoing sermon series on 1 Samuel is providing fascinating opportunities to teach about Godly character and government in an era when these topics are hot in the news!

## Family News In Photos



*Left to right: First Lady & Pastor Wilson plan the year; Paula, Lillian & Betsy cook pancakes over the woodstove during a -20°F power outage; Nate baptizes grandson Aidan; Three grandchildren-in-the-making!*



*Left to right: Paula reads to grandsons; Flash mob at Baskin-Robbins to celebrate our anniversary (31-derful years!); Newlyweds Jacen & Irene front & center @ family music jam; Last-ever photo of our 15-passenger van which died this January. (Our last 6 kids are imitating the postures of our first 6 kids in the first-ever photo we took with that van in 2001.)*

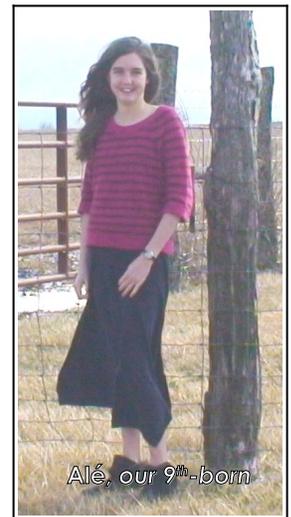
## Kid's Corner: Alétheia Joy



For my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mama took me on a surprise womanhood trip to ND and SD! We got to go to Mt. Rushmore with some friends, and we also drove to MT, just to say we did. I'm 14 now, and other recent highlights

have been: being an honorary bridesmaid for Irene's wedding, chaperoning my older sister on hikes with guy-friends, and practicing the cello that I got as an answer to prayer. Since my last kid's corner, a couple of years ago, I gave my life to Jesus, and He has made

me more joyful and more forgiving! In my homeschooling, I've finished my first read through the Bible and am excited about starting physical science. (Math is my favorite subject!) Outside of school, playing with my nieces and nephews (see picture) and running around outdoors are my favorite things to do. Pray that I keep growing closer to God!



Alé, our 9<sup>th</sup>-born

## Prayer Corner

- Pray for wisdom in what to teach & preach and for fruitfulness as we invest more in our congregation's families.
- Pray for unity between the different demographics of our congregation, which has been strained by differences in public-health philosophies.
- Pray for good health for our three pregnant daughters and daughters-in-law – and for uncomplicated births of these next grandchildren.
- Pray for us to remain diligent in training our six kids left at home, esp. Lillian, as we run the home stretch to her high school graduation this spring.



**We had our best family reunion ever this New Year's with all 12 of our kids (+6 spouses) and 9 grandkids (+5 on the way)! You can listen to our sons' messages and family music-in-the-making at <http://www.natewilsonfamily.net/FamilyGathering2021.html>**

