

Growing up, Heiningen was geographically divided into tsh Alde Dorf, drh Weingardah, ond Siedlung - the old village, the Vineyard, and the new development. The Weingarten, although a new development, was more upscale, and a good number of the people living there were somehow related to somebody from the Dorf. The Siedlung had both apartments and houses and had a lot of people who were war refugees and Gastarbeiter (foreign workers, back then mostly from Italy and some from Turkey) but they certainly didn't speak proper Schwaebisch (Swabian, the regional low German dialect). Somehow, our house, although new, was still part of the old village. One thing's for sure, you couldn't fully trust anyone from the Siedlung or Weingarten, which was right across the Katzenbach (Cat Creek) and ran through a little swale right behind our house. Once a week, whenever they slaughtered at the Metzgerei Roessle (one of the two butchers in the village), the Katzenbach turned red with the blood hosed down drain that flowed directly into the creek. It was an obvious boundary, and if you were smart you didn't cross it unless you had numbers.

Back then, Heiningen was also religiously divided. Since the Reformation, it was a Lutheran village. The old church in the center was stripped of any Catholic vestiges, even the wall frescoes were painted over. With the influx of war refugees, the Catholic church decided to build another church, making sure that its steeple was just a little higher than the old Lutheran church's. You were wise to keep your strong suspicions regarding anything Catholic, especially since everyone knew Pater Olaf and the Moesnerin (lady church caretaker) ..., well, no need to spell it out. However, the ones you had to really keep a close eye on were the handful who said they didn't believe in anything, were New-Apostolic, or Jehovah's Witnesses, not to mention the Turks.

I never had a formal lesson in any of the above, but somehow I was well versed in it long before the age of ten. Since then, I have learned about, witnessed, and sadly participated in many more divisions that were anything but godly, but were born out of pride, hardness of heart, phariseism, greed, and lack of Christlike love. Protestants vs. Catholics, Fundamentalists vs. Conservatives vs. Liberals, the South vs.

the North, the Allied vs. the Axis, Jews vs. Gentiles, Born-here vs. Immigrants, Red States vs. Blue States, City people vs Country folk, ...

The father of ungodly and ugly division, Satan, constantly works to foment divisions in and among nations, and even moreso in and among churches. His key strategies are to inflame our hubris, legitimize our lusts, and harden our hearts. Jesus reminded his critics and slanderers, **“Knowing their thoughts, He told them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and no city or house divided against itself will stand”** Matthew 12:25 (HCSB). He identified “hardness of heart” (Matthew 19:8) as the root of easy divorce arguments. He fervently prayed for his disciples, the church, to be kept from the evil one, to be different than the rest of the world, to progress towards holiness through living according to God's word, and to one, the very opposite of being divided (John 17:15-21).

I changed my mind about those Siedlung and Weingarten people. How? This odd boy from the Siedlung invited me to come to his apartment, and we played on the floor of his bedroom, which he shared with three siblings. Humble, quiet, and super smart Wilfried, son of the local chimney sweep, lived in the Obere Weingartenstrasse (upper Weingarten Street), ended up sitting next to me in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and we became friends. Paul and Diana Baker, joined our church and he eventually became our Assistant Pastor, they'd pastored in the Assemblies of God, that tongue-speaking, women-preaching denomination we were warned about in our fundamentalist Baptist Bible College. Turns out they loved the same Jesus I love, took the Bible and holiness seriously, and even had a sense of humor.

When it comes to your community, country, and church, are you better at dividing or uniting? Do you get more excited about your argument and theological persuasion than practically loving people, contributing to peace and harmony, and seeing people come to Jesus and be transformed into his likeness? Are you part of the answer to Jesus' John 17 prayer?

To God be all glory. Love you pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## PRAYER REQUEST

Suzie Frei, Bob Sykes, Antonio (surgery), Derrill Coffman  
Bob Clayton, Philip Law, those dealing with addiction,  
those who have lost family members

## SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,  
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,  
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,  
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at [ldpbcprayer@gmail.com](mailto:ldpbcprayer@gmail.com) with your prayer requests.

## **Church Board Members:**

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,  
Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler

# September & October Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday @ 10:00AM
- GriefShare - Wednesday @ 6:30 PM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:

*“Beverly’s Class & Youth Group ”*

**Thank you**

*Next week “Merle’s Class” is up!!*

2nd Sunday in October

Is

Pastor Appreciation Day

Let's decorate our Pastor 's Office

Door

With cards showing how much  
we so appreciate him.

## Giving

September 22, 2024

**Offering:**  
\$1,757.00

**Facilities:**  
\$.00

**Food:**  
\$45.00

**Attendance:**  
83

## Weekly Events

### Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

### Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

### Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

### 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

#### Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM

GriefShare - 6:30 PM

Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

**Saturday:** Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

## Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

4175 Abeto Street

La Grange California 95329

209-852-2029

ldpbaptistchurch@gmail.com

www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

LAKE DON PEDRO  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Be Saved

Acts 4:12

**Sunday Services** 10:30am & 6:00pm  
LDPbaptistchurch.com

## Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2024 September 30th - October 6th



DAY 1 - Isa. 1-2  
(Psalms 121)

DAY 2 - Isa. 3-4  
(Proverbs 1)

DAY 3 - Isa. 5-6  
(Proverbs 2)

DAY 4 - Isa. 7-8  
(Proverbs 3)

DAY 5 - Isa. 9-10  
(Proverbs 4)

DAY 6 - (Proverbs 5)  
DAY 7 - (Proverbs 6)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.