

# CURRENT

the **Vineyard** church

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022  
DULUTHVINEYARD.ORG

Artwork by Michael Gatlin

# WELCOME!

The Vineyard is a community of all kinds of people looking to be more like Jesus. We want to love and experience God, love one another, and partner with Christ to bring his hope and healing to the Twin Ports (and the whole world)!

There are lots of ways to get connected, grow, and serve at the Vineyard. Whether you've just started coming to the Vineyard or you've been here a while, there's always something God is inviting you into.

## First Steps ▶

Try any of these out to get to know us better:

- Attend our weekend services
- Try out a Small Group
- Learn all about the Vineyard's history and values at Welcome to the Vineyard
- Volunteer with us and serve our community

## Next Steps ▶

Continue growing closer to God and explore all he has for you:

- Attend one of our Bible-based classes
- Commit to a Small Group
- Begin tithing regularly

## Leadership Steps ▶

If you want to explore what leadership is like at Vineyard try these:

- Take the Leadership Basics classes
- Attend Small Group Leader Training

## Serving Our City Steps ▶

We want everyone to know how much God loves them (even in really practical ways). Help people feel the love of God in real tangible ways:

- Volunteer in our Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf
- Hand out hot chocolate at the Christmas City of the North parade
- Bake or handout yummy treats with our Muffin Ministry
- Donate or volunteer providing period products

the **Vineyard** church  
*Love God. Love people. Period.*

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

Michael Gatlin has been involved in the arts for his entire life. He studied pastoral ministry and theology at Corbin University, and after that, art and design at the American Academy of Art, in Chicago, picking up a life-long love for watercolor from Irving Shapiro.

He made his living as a watercolor artist, illustrator, and designer before planting a Vineyard church in the late 1990's with his wonderful wife Brenda. He loves to encourage creativity in every part of people's lives as they continue learning to express the beauty of the resurrected Christ together.

To see more of Michael's work you can visit his website at [jmichaelwatercolors.com](http://jmichaelwatercolors.com) or follow him on Instagram @jmgatlin.

## CONTACT US

**Michael Gatlin** - Senior Pastor - [jmgatlin@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jmgatlin@duluthvineyard.org)

**Brian Brinkert** - Associate Pastor - [bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org)

**John Klierer** - Associate Pastor - [jklierer@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jklierer@duluthvineyard.org)

**Casey LaCore** - Associate Pastor - [clacore@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:clacore@duluthvineyard.org)

## MINISTRY AREAS

**Church Planting** - Michael Gatlin - [jmgatlin@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jmgatlin@duluthvineyard.org)

**College & Young Adults** - Jackson Gatlin - [jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org)

**Discipleship** - John Klierer - [jklierer@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jklierer@duluthvineyard.org)

**Eastside Vineyard** Clint Considine - [cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org)

**Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf** - Barry Schull - [fortv@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:fortv@duluthvineyard.org)

**Marriages & Families** - Casey LaCore - [clacore@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:clacore@duluthvineyard.org)

**Men's Ministry** - Brian Brinkert - [bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org)

**Prison Ministry** - Barry Schull - [prisonministry@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:prisonministry@duluthvineyard.org)

**Small Groups** - Brian Brinkert - [bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org)

**Student Ministries** -

Clint Considine - [cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org)

Steph Bremer - [sbremer@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:sbremer@duluthvineyard.org)

**Vineyard Kids** - Becca Eastvold - [beastvold@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:beastvold@duluthvineyard.org)

**Women's Ministry** - Steph Bremer - [sbremer@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:sbremer@duluthvineyard.org)

**Worship Ministry**

Rachel Riefenberg - [rriefenberg@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:rriefenberg@duluthvineyard.org)

Xena Balch - [xbalch@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:xbalch@duluthvineyard.org)

## WORSHIP SERVICES

**In-person Services:**

Sundays at 9 & 11am at 1533 W. Arrowhead Rd.

Sundays at 6:30pm at 3833 E. Superior St.

**Online Services:** Sundays at 9 & 11 at [duluthvineyard.org/livestream](http://duluthvineyard.org/livestream)

**Office:**

Lobby Hours: Tuesdays - Thursdays 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-1pm

1533 W. Arrowhead Rd., Duluth, MN 55811

218.525.3462 • [www.duluthvineyard.org](http://www.duluthvineyard.org)

[info@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:info@duluthvineyard.org)

[facebook.com/theduluthvineyardchurch](https://facebook.com/theduluthvineyardchurch)

[instagram.com/duluthvineyard](https://instagram.com/duluthvineyard)

# FIRST STEPS *RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHERS*

**WELCOME TO THE VINEYARD** – Sundays, September 11 at 5:30pm  
Welcome to the Vineyard is your opportunity to discover what the Duluth Vineyard church is all about. We'll fire up the wood-fired oven and enjoy some delicious pizza together. We'll take an in-depth look at the Vineyard's history, vision, values – touching on lots of areas of ministry and ways you can get involved. If you choose, at the end of the class, there is an opportunity to become a member. Register online or at the Welcome Center. We look forward to meeting you!

**YOUNG ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT** – Thursday, September 15 at 6pm – Love board games? So do we! If you're a young adult (18-35), you're invited to join us for game night! No matter what type of games you've played before, we'll have something for you to enjoy. This is a great time to connect and get to know other young adults. Bring a snack to share! Have questions? Get in touch with Jackson at [jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org) or 218.525.3462.

**SERVANT APPRECIATION PARTY** – Sunday, September 18 at 5pm – We're throwing a big appreciation party to show our gratitude for all you do at the Duluth Vineyard and around the Twin Ports. If you serve at the Vineyard or if you're a regular volunteer in our community, you're invited to our building for live music by The Lately's and the Bill Berguson Band, food trucks where you can enjoy free dinner and sweet treats, and fun for all! Please register online so we know how many people to plan for.

**ALPHA** – Tuesdays at 6pm beginning September 27 – Alpha is a place to connect with other people who are open to exploring life, faith, and meaning. Each session includes a time to build friendship with others while enjoying a free meal, take in a short talk on an element of the Christian faith, and then a chance for each person to share their own questions and thoughts with the group. We'd love to hear your perspective! Learn more and sign up at [www.duluthvineyard.org/alpha](http://www.duluthvineyard.org/alpha).

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** – Saturday, September 24 at 9am – Who doesn't love a Saturday morning of free bacon and pancakes as well as time with good friends? Come hang out at our regular Men's Breakfasts. We'll eat together, take in a short message, and pray for each other. You won't want to miss this!

**EASTSIDE DINNERS** – Sundays, September 25 and October 30 at 5pm – One of the simple pleasures in life is sharing good food with great company. Part of the reason food was created by God was to bond humans together. Eating together brings joy, connections, and a sense of community. If you are a part of our Eastside Vineyard community, you're invited to join us once a month this summer for an Eastside Vineyard community dinner. This is a chance for us to get to know each other and form friendships. Invite a friend and let Clint know that you will be attending at [cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org) or 218.525.3462. Feel free to bring a dish to share!

**WOMEN'S BRUNCH** – Saturday, October 1 at 9am – As women in all walks of life, we are drawn to authentic relationships and deep intimacy with Jesus, but making time for those things can be so difficult. Our women's brunch is the perfect space to cultivate friendships, learn new ways to encounter God, and spend time in worship and prayer. Whether you're in high school or retirement, join us for an amazing morning that will feed your stomach and your soul. Did we mention there is bacon? RSVP online.

**YOUNG ADULT APPLEFEST TRIP** – Friday, October 7 at 9am – Let's load into the van and head to the Applefest to drink as much apple cider as we can! If you're a young adult (18-35), join us on a trip to the annual Applefest in Bayfield, WI. We have a limited number of seats, so register online to save your spot. Registration covers gas; however, you will be on your own for food and shopping while we are there. Bring some cash as several of the booths don't take cards. We'll head out in the morning and leave in the afternoon. If you'd like more information get in touch with Jackson at [jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:jgatlin@duluthvineyard.org) or 218.525.3462.

**RECEPTION FOR MICHAEL GATLIN'S SOLO SHOW IN THE VINEYARD ART GALLERY** – Friday, October 7 from 6-8pm – Engaging in creativity is a key part of what it means to be human and created in the image of God! Our newest show in the Vineyard Gallery showcases the work of our Senior Pastor, Michael Gatlin. You'll be able to see many pieces completed during the past couple of years, as well as a selection of significant work from his over forty-year career as an artist. Michael's diversity of work includes large-scale watercolors, smaller plein air sketches, and expressive calligraphy, a new medium he's been exploring. This will be his first solo show in more than 25 years. Please plan to join us for a reception to hear more about Michael's creative process and what he's been learning about God, about himself, and about creativity over the last few months. You'll have time to savor the work, ask any questions you might have, and enjoy light refreshments.

**CLUB45 PUMPKIN PAINTING** – Sunday, October 16 at 3pm – This party is for all 4th & 5th graders. Come paint pumpkins with us! We'll be snacking on all sorts of treats and designing some award winning pumpkins. Bring a friend or two, a pumpkin to paint, and a treat to share! Have questions? Get in touch at [beastvold@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:beastvold@duluthvineyard.org) or 218-525-3462.

**CHILD DEDICATIONS** – Sunday, October 16 at the 11am service at Arrowhead and 6:30pm at Eastside – Child Dedications are a time for parents to publicly commit to collaborating with God in raising their children to become followers of Jesus. We will also be celebrating your families immediately after service in the lobby with refreshments and snacks! Contact Becca Eastvold for more information at [beastvold@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:beastvold@duluthvineyard.org) or 218.525.3462.

**LIMITLESS YOUTH CONFERENCE** – October 20-22 – \$75 per student – God has limitless power to transform our lives. Since the beginning, he has been empowering his people to chase after his kingdom and join him in the work of changing the world. He has wired us all differently and has planted unique dreams in all of us to be an expression of our Creator. There are limitless possibilities of how our stories will weave together to show the world who he is. You are called to discover the limitless presence of God in your life, to heal, set you free, and empower you to become everything he has for you to be. Join us for Limitless, our annual youth conference for students grades 6-12 on October 20-22. We will have a weekend packed with a variety of ways for students to worship and experience God and grow in the depth of their relationship with him. The weekend will include main sessions from our speaker, extended times of worship, and lots of fun. There will also be workshops for students to dive into topics like healthy relationships, creativity in God's kingdom, spiritual warfare, how to share your faith, and much more. We will also be spending time putting into practice all that we are experiencing by doing team outreaches in our community! Join us on this adventure of encountering our good, beautiful, and limitless God. Learn more at [www.limitlessconf.com](http://www.limitlessconf.com).

## NEXT STEPS *GOING DEEPER INTO THE LIFE JESUS OFFERS*

**NIGHT OF WORSHIP** - Saturday, September 10 at 6pm - You're invited to participate in a Night of Worship! Colossians 3:16 reminds us to... "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Bring your voice or whatever other instrument you play, no matter how dusty it is! We'll gather in the lobby and worship in the round. You can expect to hear biblical teaching, to receive prayer, and have lots of time to just worship the living Christ through music or other artistic expressions. Sheet music and limited art supplies will be provided.

**LEARNING TO PRAY LIKE JESUS** - Tuesday, September 13 at 6pm - Amazing things happened when Jesus prayed for others, and we can learn how to pray for people just as Jesus did. Join us in this class for an in-depth look at the healing ministry of Jesus and how we can partner with him in his ministry by simply asking the question, "Can I pray for you right now?". You'll receive practical steps that will enable you to pray for others in a very simple and natural way, and in class "clinic time" to try on what you learn. This is also the first step to be trained to participate on our prayer ministry teams for our weekend services. Register online.

**LEADERSHIP BASICS** - Thursdays beginning September 15 at 6:30pm - We can be leaders in many different aspects of our lives, in our churches, families, places of work, and our neighborhoods. Our Leadership Basics training class helps you explore your own leadership gifting and gives you all the tools you'll need to be a kingdom leader wherever you might lead. This class focuses on building a strong foundation for your leadership with topics like character, integrity, maturity, and testing under authority. Using an online hybrid teaching model, each week participants will view a short video talk online and read a few articles on that week's topic. Then we'll gather in person to engage in meaningful discussions and reflect on the material to see how it applies to our lives and to listen for how Jesus is speaking to us in these areas. Register online.

**ART + FAITH BOOK CLUB WITH MICHAEL GATLIN** - Online - Thursdays monthly beginning September 22 at 7pm - Join us for a monthly discussion of the book *Art + Faith, A Theology of Making* by Makoto Fujimura. This group is not only for those who see themselves as artists, but for anyone who is a maker of some kind. We want to promote creativity and imagination. We will showcase some of our work, food, music, writing, poetry, creativity, and caring. The God we worship is intentionally creative and we want to reflect and enjoy his creativity in our midst with one another. Please consider joining us on a select Thursday of each month over the next 9 months. We'd love to see you! Register online.

**THE MARRIAGE COURSE** - Mondays starting October 3 at 6:30pm - The Marriage Course is a seven week course designed to give married couples the practical tools to build a strong and healthy marriage that not only lasts a lifetime, but is fun and fulfilling. We will meet Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm to discuss the important issues that often get swept under the rug during the rush of everyday life like communication, conflict, family, forgiveness, and more. Many couples have said this course changed their marriage and they are so grateful they attended. The cost is \$30 per couple. We are limited to the first 25 couples due to the design of the course.

### **STUDY THE BIBLE WITH US: THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN**

Wednesdays at 6:30pm starting September 28 - The Bible should come with a warning label: "Side effects of studying this book and experiencing God's love include radical obedience as we become more like Jesus." This fall, join us as we dive into a study of 1 John. After a lifetime of firsthand experience of Jesus, the Apostle John uses this short letter to invite us into the incredible love, the easy obedience, the inward transformation and the eternal life that come with following Jesus. This study will include large group teaching by John Kliewer, smaller group discussions, and lots of opportunities for application, memorization, and prayer. Please register online.

### **FREEDOM FOR LIFE WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP**

Wednesdays starting October 5 at 6pm - This 13-week small group class for women is specifically designed to help you abandon all other dependencies, and teach you how to have a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus. Through this journey, we'll learn how to depend on Jesus to meet all of our needs so we no longer have to use a false substitute to feel okay or to escape from the hardships of life. Committing to it will be the best decision you've ever made when it comes to bringing healing and freedom from addictions into your life. The course costs \$15, and includes the book "12 Steps with Jesus" by Don Williams, a workbook for weekly assignments, and a journal. We require a brief application to be completed prior to attendance. Contact Michele DeNoble at [mdenoble@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:mdenoble@duluthvineyard.org) for more information and to receive an application.



## NEXT STEPS *GOING DEEPER INTO THE LIFE JESUS OFFERS*

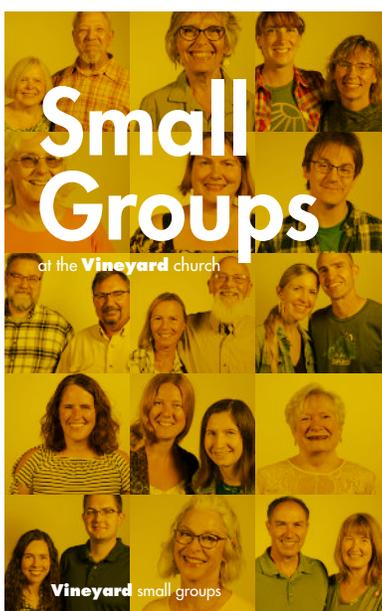
**CLASH OF THE KINGDOMS** - Wednesday, October 5 at 6pm  
Spiritual warfare is a real thing, and it's also impacted by our world view. So, what does spiritual warfare actually look like? In this online class, we'll dive into the biblical foundation for dealing with demonic activity. The in-depth material available looks at how Jesus dealt with demons and teaches you how to deal with the influence of demons today. Participate by listening and taking notes with our downloadable notebook and online content found on our website at [duluthvineyard.org/clash](http://duluthvineyard.org/clash). Then join us at the Duluth Vineyard in-person for a class finale featuring direct access to the teacher, real life application, open Q&A, practicum, and prayer. It's a whole new way to learn in your walk with Jesus!

**BAPTISM CLASS** - Thursday, October 27 at 6:30pm - Join us in this class to learn more about how we baptize folks here at the Vineyard and to hear God's heart for you as you consider this step forward in obedience to him. We'll go through the baptism statements of faith, share stories of what God is doing in us as he leads us into baptism, and talk through a bit of the logistics of baptism day, too. Although not required prior to baptism, it is highly recommended. Register online.

**VINEYARD KIDS BAPTISM CLASS** - Thursday, October 27 at 6:30pm  
Kids can get so excited about getting baptized, but do they actually understand what it's about and why we do it? This class is a chance for parents and kids to learn more about why we get baptized and it's a time to equip families to decide together whether their child is ready to take the next step in their faith and get baptized. If your child is thinking about getting baptized or if they have questions about baptism, bring them to the class with you! Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend with their child(ren). Contact Becca Eastvold for more information at [beastvold@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:beastvold@duluthvineyard.org) or sign up online.

**BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS** - Sunday, October 30 at 9am and 11am weekend services - In the Bible there are lots of stories of folks who surrendered their lives to Jesus and then gotten baptized, often immediately following their surrender. Not only is getting baptized an important next step in our obedience to Christ, but it's also a public proclamation of your decision to follow Jesus and a celebration of your joining God's family. God often does amazing things in response to our obedience, and as people have been baptized we've seen them experience freedom, healing, and a deeper understanding and assurance of what Jesus is doing in their lives. If you're a new follower of Jesus, we would love to celebrate and support you in your baptism! For more information go to [www.duluthvineyard.org/baptism](http://www.duluthvineyard.org/baptism).

**EMOTIONALLY FOCUSED: FOUNDATION** - Friday, November 11 from 5:30pm - 10pm and Saturday, November 12 from 8am - 4:30pm - The Emotionally Focused: Foundation Intensive is a two-day experience that helps us dive into our journey of personal transformation. Sometimes we don't understand why we struggle to show up and be the authentic person that God wants us to be in our family and day-to-day relationships. Emotionally Focused helps us look at times and places in our lives that have shaped us and still affect us years later. As we grow in self-awareness we can learn to turn off some of the automatic responses that lead to fear, anger, habitual sin, anxiety, and so much more. Learning that we've developed self-protection as a way to feel safe in so many situations, allows us the opportunity to trust God more. Believing who he says we are made to be and receiving his love and acceptance changes us forever to become a calm peaceful presence in all our interactions. Join us for Emotionally Focused: Foundation to begin your transformation journey of a lifetime! Go to <https://duluthvineyard.org/emotionally-focused/> for more information and to register.



# God works through others to help grow your faith.

Small groups are a vitally important part of our community— a place to let your guard down and build meaningful relationships with one another and with God.

Check out all of our groups online or in our lobby.  
[duluthvineyard.org/smallgroups](http://duluthvineyard.org/smallgroups)

# SERVING OUR CITY STEPS

*PARNTERING WITH GOD TO BRING HEALING TO OUR WORLD*

**SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING** - Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30pm - Small groups are a significant expression of our life together as a church. They are often where people discover new friendships and experience real encouragement in following Jesus. Have you ever wondered what it might be like to lead a small group at the Vineyard? We want to invite you to come to the Small Group Leader Training. In this training, you'll experience the foundational philosophy, tools, and vision for how and why we have Small Groups. You'll have time to hear information, ask questions, and receive some prayer. If you're interested, email Brian at [bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:bbrinkert@duluthvineyard.org).

**WORSHIP INTEREST MEETING** - Sunday, September 25 at 1pm - Psalms 150:5 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." We are all created to worship and praise God. One of the ways we do that is through musical worship! We participate in worship at our weekend services but also in small groups, Vineyard Kids, memorial services, special events, and really most things that happen around the Vineyard. We have a place for YOU in the worship community! Whether you play an instrument, sing, or both we'd love to talk with you. You don't need to play music to be involved; we also have plenty of places to serve behind the scenes in worship! Join us after church on Sunday, September 25 for lunch as we dive into what worship is at the Vineyard and what it looks like to join the worship community. Please register online

**CITY OF THE NORTH PARADE** - Friday, November 18 at 5:30pm at 206 W Superior St. - We are a people who deeply love God and who deeply care for our city. We want to show the love of Jesus in practical ways around the Twin Ports. Join us at 5:30pm outside of Mainstream Fashion as we bless our city during the City of the North Parade by giving out hundreds of cups of free hot chocolate. This is a fun way to make strangers feel loved, noticed, and put into practice the radical welcome that God extends to each of us. This is a great event for the whole family to serve our community together. For more information, get in touch with Clint at [cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:cconsidine@duluthvineyard.org) or 218-525-3462.

**ADOPT A FAMILY** - As a church, we want to continue to find ways to partner with God to express his heart of compassion and love for our neighbors in the Twin Ports. One way we get to do that is by getting Christmas gifts for families who are struggling financially. Receiving a gift tells a family in need that they are special to God and remembered. It also provides a sense of normalcy for a family as they are going through a season of need. So, for the sixth year in a row, we will be hosting an Adopt-a-Family program! Families with kids receiving food from our food shelf are eligible to apply to be matched with a sponsor family who will "adopt" their family for Christmas to buy at least one present for each of their children and as able, provide a gift card for the family for groceries or gas. Want to help us love on these families this Christmas? Sign up by emailing us to sponsor a family and receive more details! You could do this on your own or with your small group or workplace— the more the merrier! You'll purchase the gifts and gift card (\$50-\$100 range per household), wrap and label them, and drop them off at the church so we can distribute to families. Don't want to shop for gifts but still want to help out? You can also donate to Adopt-a-Family online or by putting Adopt-a-family in your memo. Contact us at [fatv@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:fatv@duluthvineyard.org) or call 218-525-3462 to get signed up.

**COMMUNION TEAM** - Are you looking for a next step to become more involved in our community? Becoming a part of the communion team is a great way to partner with what God is doing in our church. Here at the Vineyard, the act of taking communion together as the body of Christ is something that we deeply value. It is an opportunity to not only acknowledge the sacrifice that God made in sending Jesus to die for our sins but provides a space for us to repent and receive the forgiveness that God has for us as well. Communion is a weekly part of our service that has a huge impact on our community and we want to invite more people into the behind the scenes process. This is a Sunday morning serving opportunity that is available for both services and takes less than an hour of time. If the idea of joining our communion team sparks your interest, we would love to hear from you at [xbalch@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:xbalch@duluthvineyard.org).

**VINEYARD COMPASSION MINISTRIES** - Living compassionate lives is one of our church's biggest priorities! We honestly believe that God loves people. All of us. We want to be a bridge that connects anyone who's hurting to the extravagant love of God. We do this by looking for ways to meet practical needs and by helping to connect people with a healthy community where they can thrive. There are many ways you can get involved or donate.

**FRUIT OF THE VINE FOOD SHELF** - The Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf is open to anyone in the community facing food insecurity. Our volunteers assist guests in receiving about a week's worth of groceries. We are open twice a week - on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Also, we have behind the scenes volunteer opportunities to deliver food to shut-ins, unload food rescue trucks, and stock shelves.

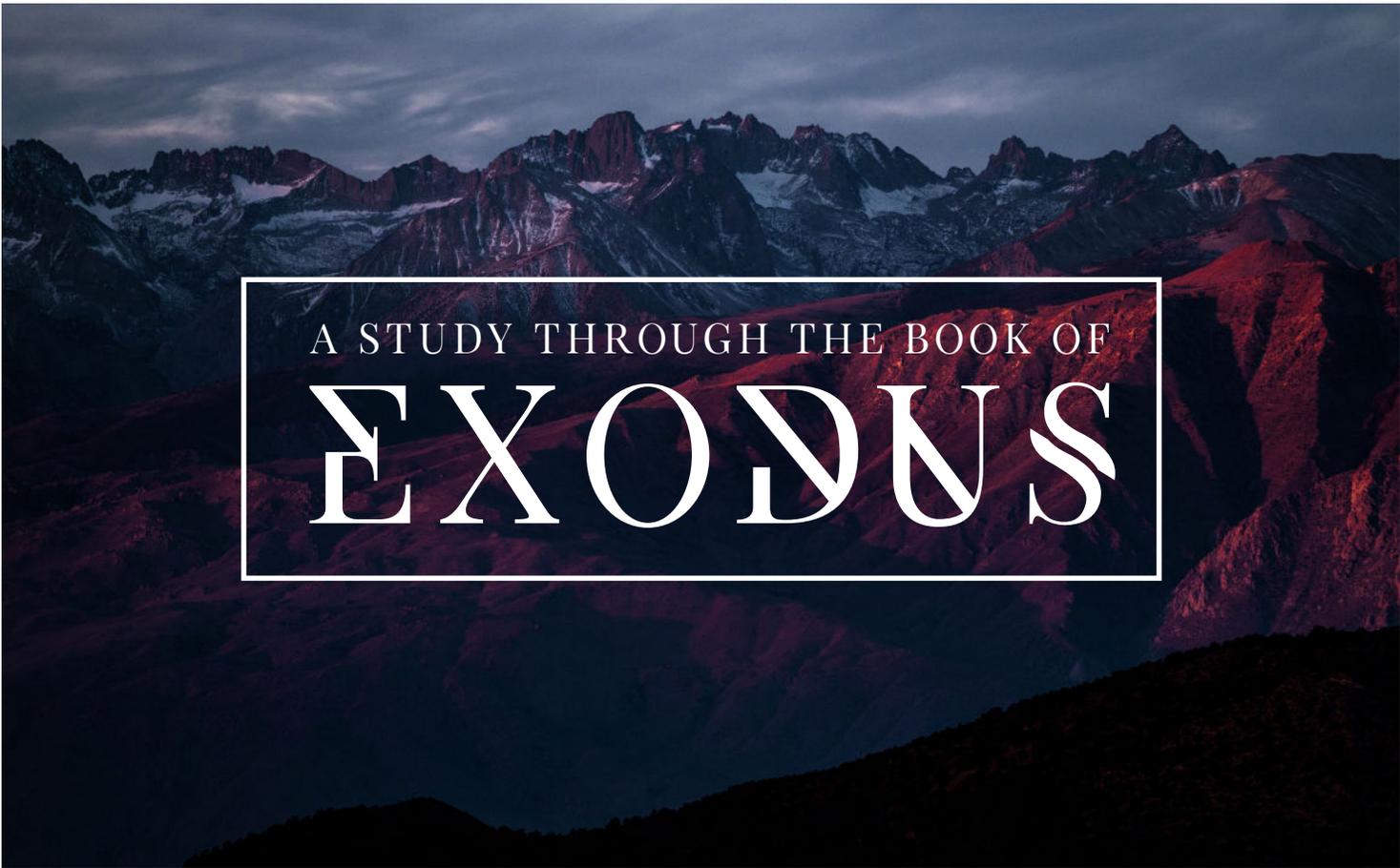
**PROVIDING PERIOD PRODUCTS** - Lack of access to period products is a critical problem for many women and girls in our Twin Ports community, preventing them from full participation in work, school, and life. As a faith community, serving women by providing the products necessary for managing their periods with dignity is an affirming expression of how God cares for women. We offer these free feminine hygiene products each week during our Fruit of the Vine food shelf hours. We have volunteer opportunities to assist guests and stock shelves. You can also use the QR code here to purchase items to donate to this ministry and have them shipped directly to us.



**CLOTHING CLOSET** - From clothes for a quickly growing newborn to a new pair of slacks for a job interview, our Clothing Closet provides free gently used clothing for guests of all ages and sizes. The Clothing Closet is open during our Fruit of the Vine food shelf hours. We are looking for volunteers to restock and assist guests in this area.

**PRISON MINISTRY** - Every week, volunteers on our prison ministry team transcribe the weekend sermon from the Duluth Vineyard, print it, and mail it out to over 200 prisoners from around the country. Recipients also receive birthday cards each year for their birthdays. We are looking for additional volunteers to transcribe and stuff mailing envelopes.

If any of these ministry areas peak your interests, please contact Barry Schull at [bschull@duluthvineyard.org](mailto:bschull@duluthvineyard.org) to get more information.



# A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF EXODUS

In the Old Testament book of Exodus, we see God introducing himself to his people. He's teaching them about who he is and what he's like: his character, his disposition, and what's important to him. He's teaching Israel about themselves, about how to get along with one another, and about how to live in the world as his chosen people.

Israel had been enslaved in Egypt for many generations, nearly four hundred years. There were the old stories of how God had led their ancestors—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—generations ago. But for the past few centuries Israel had lived under the rule of the Egyptian leaders and their gods. They had very little insight into God's character and very little knowledge of how he interacted in the world of humanity. The relationship between God and Israel had mostly gone silent.

In Exodus, we see a move from the absence to the presence of God among the community of Israel. Throughout these well known stories, God is revealing himself to Israel. He teaches them his name. He gives them clear guidelines about how to live with one another and their neighboring communities. He reminds them how they got to where they are and he gives them vision for a flourishing future. He stresses the vital importance of aligning their lives and priorities around himself.

Today, I see the need for learning the very same lessons. In our current cultural context, we need the God of the scriptures to reveal himself to us. It's so easy to confuse the God of the scriptures with the gods of our age. It's tempting to allow our lives to be shaped by the cultural norms we live in rather than by the one we claim to worship.

Who is this God we claim to worship? We don't want to craft and bow before an image of God of our own making. Who are we to be as his image bearers? What does it mean to worship the one true God amongst all the competing images of God we see around us? How are we to live in our world? These are the kinds of questions we want to ask, and answer, as we study through the Exodus narrative of God and Israel's story together.

The stories in the book of Exodus have been made into many movies and told in churches many times over. So much so that they might feel overly familiar to you. We might think there's not much left to learn from these often repeated stories, but I think there's much for us to glean.

The Exodus is a central motif of the scriptures. The story of God freeing Israel from captivity and setting them apart as his people has a special significance throughout the New

Testament and for the church today. The story of Israel is the story that points directly to Jesus and the freedom he offers us to live as the people of God in our world today.

One of the themes throughout the Exodus is the way God defines himself in relationship to his people. We don't learn about who God is or what he's like in abstract terms or disconnected ideas, rather everything we learn is deeply connected to the ways he relates to his people: his guidance, his protection, his provision, and his covenant.

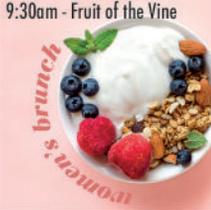
I'm excited to study this with all of you this fall, to learn more about how God works to provide these same things in our lives, if we let him. I'm praying that our ideas and images of God are firmly rooted in the ways God has revealed himself. I'm excited to encourage our love of the scriptures, especially the Old Testament which is often overlooked or misunderstood.

I'm looking forward to learning alongside you!

Peace to you,



**Michael Gatlin, Senior Pastor**

| Sunday   | Monday                   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| 4  | Vineyard Offices Closed  | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine  | 7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)  |  |   | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Night of Worship   |
| 5:30pm - Welcome to the Vineyard<br>                                |                          | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Learning to Pray Like Jesus<br>6:30pm - Small Group Leader Training | 7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)  | 6pm - Young Adult Board Game Night<br>6:30pm - Leadership Basics   |   | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |
| <br><b>SERVANT APPRECIATION PARTY</b><br>Sunday, September 18 at 5pm |                          | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine  | 7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)  | 6:30pm - Leadership Basics<br>7pm - Art + Faith Book Club - Online | 9:30am - FOTV Fresh Produce Giveaway  | <br><b>MEN'S Breakfast</b><br>Saturday, Sept. 24 at 9am |
| 1pm - Worship Interest Meeting<br>5pm - Eastside Potluck   |                          | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha   | 6:30pm - Study the Bible<br>7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)  | 6:30pm - Leadership Basics   |   | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine<br><br><b>Women's Brunch</b> |
|  | 6:30pm - Marriage Course | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha   | 6pm - Freedom for Life Women's Small Group<br>6pm - Clash of the Kingdoms<br>6:30pm - Study the Bible<br>7pm - Emerge (Sr. High) | 6pm - Child Dedication Class<br>6:30pm - Leadership Basics         | 9am - Young Adult Applefest Trip<br>6pm - Reception for Michael Gatlin's Solo Show  | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |
|  | 6:30pm - Marriage Course | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha   | 6pm - Freedom for Life Women's Small Group<br>6:30pm - Study the Bible<br>7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)                                | 6:30pm - Leadership Basics   |   | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |
| 11am - Child Dedications<br>3pm - Club45 Pumpkin Painting  | 6:30pm - Marriage Course | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha   | 6pm - Freedom for Life Women's Small Group<br>6:30pm - Study the Bible   | 7pm - Art + Faith Book Club - Online                               | <br><b>LITLESS</b><br>OCT. 20-22, 2022 | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |
|  | 6:30pm - Marriage Course | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha   | 6pm - Freedom for Life Women's Small Group<br>6:30pm - Study the Bible<br>7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)                                | 6:30pm - Baptism Class<br>6:30pm - Vineyard Kids Baptism Class     | 9:30am - FOTV Fresh Produce Giveaway  | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |
| <b>Baptism Celebrations</b><br>5pm - Eastside Potluck<br>         | 6:30pm - Marriage Course | 6pm - Fruit of the Vine<br>6pm - Alpha<br><br>Vineyard Lobby Closed                                  | 6pm - Freedom for Life Women's Small Group<br>6:30pm - Study the Bible<br>7pm - Emerge (Sr. High)                                |  |   | 9:30am - Fruit of the Vine   |