

January 2026 – Community Bible Newsletter



Love the Lord, Hate Evil – ‘*You who love the LORD, hate evil! He protects the lives of His godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked*’ – Psalm 97:10

During a close reelection campaign, a southern Senator visited a small town in the backwoods area of his state. The issue demanding most attention in this lackluster election was ‘squirrel hunting’. The people were deeply divided over the issue. Some believed they had the right to hunt the little animals; others thought the practice was barbaric and should be banned. So, the Senator was asked to state his position on the issue. After careful thought, *and probably after checking the polls*, he replied, ‘some of my friends are squirrel hunters, and some of my friends think squirrel hunting should be banned. If you look carefully at my record...and I am running on my record, don’t forget as you all know that as a man of principle I stand firmly with my friends’.

The story may have value as an example of modern politics but not as a prescription for living by principle! On matters of real significance, a man of principle cannot be in favor of one thing and its opposite at the same time! In fact, the extent to which a man shows his stand for something can often be determined by the position he takes against the opposite.

The psalm writer gives us a great example. He wrote, ‘*You who love the LORD, hate evil.*’ Also, *God has instructed to love the LORD with heart, mind, soul, and strength* (Deut. 6:5; Luke 10:27). Those are positive ways of living for the Lord. We learn that love can be expressed negatively as well. By hating what God hates, we express love for who God is. When God considers something an abomination, so shall we who love Him.

The psalmist says, ‘*Righteousness and justice are the foundation of (God’s) throne*’ (Psalm 97:2). Obviously, then, unrighteousness and injustice are contrary to His nature and are, accordingly evil. The Lord ‘*protects the lives of His godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked*’ (97:10). So, concern for the well-being of the godly and opposition to the wicked are exercises of power and are good and right, while the converse is evil.

Today, we can detect traces of unrighteousness and injustice in our own treatment of people, and we can see them in operation in the institutions of our culture. Therefore, we have plenty of opportunities to show that we hate unrighteousness and injustice. When we see the oppression of the godly, and the celebration of the things that God hates, we should be in the forefront of those who object and endeavor to rectify the situation.

Loving God includes hating what He hates, and that means taking a stand against the evil of our day.

Pastor Bradley Kihlthau

Elders Meeting – December 2025

Present: Jim Schmall, Larry Kennedy, Colton Ehler, John Seiler, and Pastor Brad Kihlthau (*absent Rod McCoy*)

Devotion – Colton Ehler shared from Romans 7:14-20 concerning sin is part of our nature and we must be aware of its ability to trip us up as believers. **Previous Minutes:** were reviewed and approved as presented. **Financial Report:** No report was given at this meeting. **Ministry Updates:** **Worship** – we have seen many new faces in our congregation this past year. Pastor has spent the month of December sharing Christmas messages from Galatians 4 and will conclude these during our Christmas Eve Service. On January 4th Pastor plans to restart his series from the Book of Genesis. **Missions** – The first Mission’s Event will be held February 22nd (5:00 p.m.) called ‘Bingo and Fun Baskets’ to raise extra support for our missionaries. Love Baskets at the back of the sanctuary will start up March 1st and the next Mission’s Team Meeting will be February 1st.

Youth / Children – Children’s Church and Nursery held during our Worship Services. Kids for Truth’s Christmas Caroling and Pizza Party was canceled because of bad weather. This ministry is planning to restart on January 7th and run through April 29th with a conclusion of inflatables and a cookout. Pastor shared he is making plans for this year’s Vacation Bible School to be held July 13th – 16th and will be entitled ‘Rusty’s Junkyard’. **Women’s Ministry** – The ladies held their Annual Christmas Party this past Saturday and was very well attended. This month they will be working on the delivery of cakes at Villa and bringing in supplies for Tiger Care. Their weekly prayer times and Bible study will restart after the Christmas break on January 8th. **Men’s Ministry** – The men will restart their Men’s Supper and Studies on January 15th to be held at Bob and Denise Knaub’s woodworking shop in Gering, serving pulled pork and fixings, and Pastor Brad will be teaching from James 2 a message entitled ‘Mature or Childish’. **Security Team** – Colton Ehler shared Security Team updates.

Other: Discussion was held concerning the installation of A/C for the overflow, balcony, and basement. Two estimates were examined and it was decided to get one more estimate before the January meeting. Security headsets are being ordered. Discussion was held concerning a benevolent project. Discussion was held for the repairs of the north lawn water hydrant. Discussion was held to replace the carpet in the Fellowship Hall. **Prayer requests were taken** and prayer time held