

BREAKING Ground



MARCH 2020

Solid Ground

Our focus on the Ten Commandments this year provides a clear picture of how our Lord intends us to live in relationship with Him and our neighbors. As we walk together in the Breaking Ground campaign our foundation is established in Christ alone!

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (Exodus 20:7). These words form the second commandment. We hear the prohibition on not using the name of God in vain or against its purpose and too quickly our Lord may sound like one seeking to limit creation. To often we focus on the negative and fail to recognize what God intends to protect.

I remember many times in school having the teacher take several minutes at the start of a new school year to ask the name of each student in class. “Andrew Thompson”, said the teacher and the student responded, “I prefer Andy.” There is value in knowing how a person is named and being certain to respect them as we interact with them.

There is no worse use of God’s name than for a purpose that is deceitful or supports a falsehood. Adding God’s name to something to suggest that it must be followed when its origin is not aligned to our Lord’s intention for creation is a grave endeavor. Yet many have used God’s name under false pretense to make a quick gain for their own position or to appease the question of a friend or neighbor. The suggestion that God told you to do something which you know is false or to share that you received an answer to prayer when you know fully that you never offered a petition to God.

God’s name is not to be used to cover up for our mistakes rather the Lord invites us to call upon His name at all times in faith. God does not want to be your last resort in crisis rather *God is our ever present help in times of trouble* (Psalm 46:1). Using God’s name correctly is to lay down our burdens and troubles and place them at the feet of our Savior who walked on earth and is now reigning at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

This month consider what burdens you are carrying that you need to lay down at the foot of the cross. The Second Commandment instructs us not to try and do life alone. We have a God who invites us to use His name

when we are in need. Listen to the words of the famous hymn “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”:

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

Trying to go about daily living without the Lord can be dizzying and tiring in the extreme. Whether you are balancing a new job, seeking a change in employment or navigating a transition for you or an aging family member, carry your petition to God in prayer each day. We have a God who came to earth and became man so we may receive rest from our Lord who has faced and conquered every human trial for us.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

in Christ, Pastor Mike

GROWING



SPROUTS

Memory Work for March:

Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What Does This Mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Breaking Ground Update and Town Halls

Plan to attend a Town Hall Update to learn the next steps in the site development in preparation for the upcoming congregation resolution to approve a construction loan package.

Meetings held at the Jordan Office
(1031 Pemberton Hill Rd., Suite 202)

Saturday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 15, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.

Ways to Donate

- **Sunday Envelopes** with a Breaking Ground Special Designation
- Sign-up for Joyful Response® **free e-giving** through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- **Donate online** through the website at JordanApex.org/giving
- Direct your **IRA RMD** to Jordan tax-free if you are over 72
- Utilize **Jordan's brokerage account** to make a stock gift
- Include Jordan in your **estate planning**

Questions?

Contact office@jordanchurchnc.org
or call Jordan's Office at (919) 303-1613



"The people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD."

1 Chronicles 29:9 ESV

Encouraging Our Spiritual Growth

Consider the following ideas and activities as you look to break ground in your spiritual growth this year.

Know Christ

engagement in Jordan's congregational worship life

- Attend worship weekly at 9:30 a.m. at Beaver Creek Cinemas.
- Memorize a Bible verse or the Second Commandment.

Grow in Christ

my commitment to study the Scriptures and be in prayer

- Weekly Sunday Morning Bible Study at 8:30 a.m.
- Connect with the Men's or Women's Fellowship group
- Read or download the Lenten Devotion *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free* from Lutheran Hour Ministries at: LHM.org/lent

Serve Christ

my active response to use the gifts entrusted to me by God

- Volunteer and lend a hand in a Sunday morning role at Jordan.
- Consider opening your home to host a Jordan Juniors: Generations gathering this year.
- Volunteer with Matthew Ministry to serve the homeless in Raleigh. Contact John Miesch for information: 919-553-3579

Go for Christ

using my vocation to share Christ with others

- *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- Write a card of gratitude to one who has guided you in the Christian faith.
- Invite a friend to join you at the Men's or Women's Fellowship gatherings to introduce them to the church.

Monthly Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, every day you bless us with time to do all we need to do, abilities to accomplish objectives and resources to provide all we need. Thank you. Lead us always to first return to you a proportionate share of these blessings. Amen

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10)

Sundays at 9:30 AM at Beaver Creek Cinemas in Apex

1031 Pemberton Hill Rd, Ste 202, Apex, NC 27502

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