

BREAKING Ground



November 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 covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Exod. 20:17). "Pastor, these words are outdated I don't have a manservant or maidservant and my house is not prepared for an ox or a donkey." You would not be the first person to be distracted in the modern world by language that does not connect fully to your present experience. However not everyone hearing this commandment had those items either and for that reason the phrase "or anything that belongs to your neighbor" provides us with the complete vision our Lord had for his people in the final commandment recorded in Exodus 20.

Our focus is to remain on honoring the intent of the law to honor our neighbor's property and not be distracted from our Lord's desire for us to be content with the blessings we have received.

Rev. Luther's Large Catechism, prepared for pastors and teachers, spoke of how people will use the law to try and justify the pursuits of their heart which are beyond that which God has grant them. While earthly law may not share redress, Rev. Luther observed; *"although the judge and every one must leave you in possession of it, yet God will not leave you therein: for He sees the deceitful heart and the malice of the world."* (Luther, Martin. Large Catechism 10th Commandment)

Our Lord will hold us accountable for our sinful desires, yet praise be to God that in Jesus we are made into a new creation by the power of the Holy Spirit. The greatest authority in our lives are not civil courts and local magistrates it is our Lord who is King of heaven and earth. As Christians then we are called daily to recognize the value in the possessions of every individual and work to preserve another's property.

Consider how seemingly innocent words can display our inwardly covetous hearts. "I didn't mean anything wrong I was just saying how I would treat that property [house, car, phone, spouse, job] better than they did". Sometimes we label words like those 'idle gossip' to

explain away the improper thoughts or words we use or hear regarding a family member, friend or neighbor when in fact the words are just the opposite of being idle gossip they are an active infection that grabs hold of us to distort our views of God's provision in our lives.

Our God sees behind the outward expressions of our hands and the utterances of our mouths to recognize the darkness of the human heart to rebel against the perfect provision of our God. May we in a year filled with the temptation to compare ourselves to others cling to the most precious gift that is fully ours. That gift is the relationship we have been given with our Lord by faith in Jesus' righteousness which transforms us into masks of God. We who are remade and reconciled to God act as masks of God, that God uses our hands, feet and tongues to carry forward His kingdom work to proclaim the majesty of God Almighty the maker of heaven and earth.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV)

in Christ, Pastor Mike

GROWING



SPROUTS

Memory Work for November:

Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What Does This Mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animal, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Breaking Ground Campaign Update



Update as of October 31, 2020

Ways to Donate

- **Mail donations to the church's locked mailbox** with a Breaking Ground special designation: 1031 Pemberton Hill Rd., Suite 202, Apex, NC 27502
- 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

- Worship Services at Beaver Creek Cinemas have resumed at 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- Service videos are available online later on Sunday morning
- Outdoor Worship Service - November 8 at 3:30 p.m. (2600 Evans Rd. in Apex)

Grow in Christ

my commitment to study the Scriptures and be in prayer

- K-6 Sunday School lessons available online
- Pastor's Bible study moved to Wednesdays at 7 p.m. on the Gospel of Matthew (Zoom online)
- Tuesday class taught by Larry Eckart at 7 p.m. (Zoom online) Gospel of Mark

Serve Christ

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

- Pick up a tag from the tree to provide a gift for a child in partnership with The Christmas Store
- Prepare a meal or card for a neighbor – put faith into action
- Call a family or individual at church you have not seen this fall to reconnect

Go for Christ

using my vocation to share Christ with others

- Share a story of God's provision in your life this year with another person.
- Prepare a written devotion for Jordan's Advent devotions (contact Pastor to learn more).

Monthly Prayer

Lord God give us eyes to see the world as children of God who will one day stand before the throne of God refreshed, renewed and fully restored by the work of Jesus Christ, the lamb of God, so that all creation will resound with Your goodness.

"For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:17)

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