

Trinity



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You Aren't Doing God Any Favors

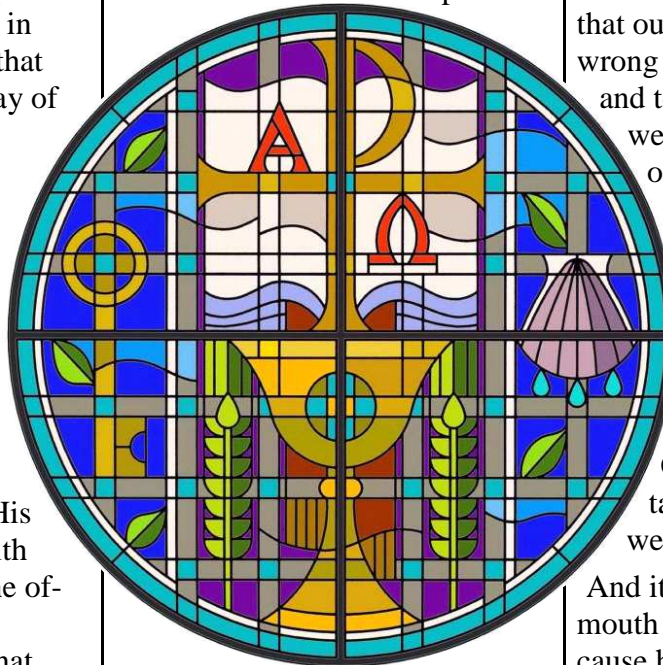
One of the most convoluted ideas people have in our day is the notion that somehow or other they are doing God a favor by “going to Church” on Sunday morning. It’s almost as if they really believe God is the one who chiefly benefits from their presence at worship – perhaps by getting our money in the offering plate? May I say that this is a terribly backwards way of viewing things!

But the truth of the matter (as I’m sure you’re already well aware) is that we don’t attend Church so as to do God a favor, rather we attend Church to receive the favor of God. We go to Church to receive Christ and His gifts. It’s in Church where God serves us generously with the favor of His grace. We don’t serve Him with the favor of our attendance, the offering of our time, or the “sacrifice” of our desires, in that we could quite easily be doing something else with the couple of hours we spend gracing God with our presence in Church on Sunday morning.

So, if we aren’t going to Church to favor God, perhaps we are going to Church in order to serve God. Nope, that’s not it either. Instead, it is God who serves us in Church – and without this service of God we could do absolutely nothing at all.

Whether we like to admit it or not, we need Jesus. We need His gifts. And the reality is that we cannot even begin to serve Jesus until He has first served us with His Word and Sacraments. Only Him whose humble obedience to the Father

has pro-



cured our salvation can present us to the Father as His own, and send us forth in His name with His Word.

Our Protestant cousins are all agreed – from the Calvinists and their predestination, to the Pentecostals and their spiritual gifts, to the Evangelicals with their feel good focus. Almost without exception all of them are of the unanimous opinion that in

Church God is **not** acting to give to His people the forgiveness of sins, salvation from hell, and eternal life by means of the speaking of a man (a pastor) – or even less so in the earthly elements of water, bread, and wine. Lutherans, however, have always insisted that our Protestant cousins are wrong about this. It is our belief and teaching that the man who wears the stole of the pastoral office has been called by God to speak for Jesus Christ Himself to forgive our sins. And even though this man may look and sound like our pastor, we know from God’s Word that He is speaking to us God’s forgiveness as certainly as if Christ Himself were speaking.

And it isn’t as if God is using the mouth of this particular man because his personal piety or righteousness, for we know that he himself is also a poor, miserable sinner whom God has redeemed – a man who has no claim on his own to the authority of the Word because of any personal holiness, if fact, quite the opposite. This man may be (and is) flawed, and his faults are obvious to us. Remember how God spoke through Balaam’s ass and the flaws and failings of the patriarchs and

prophets? Hence our confidence lies not in the man who holds the Office, but in the means of grace. When this mere man we call our pastor Baptizes, absolves, preaches, and administers the Lord's Supper, there God is at work through the Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Christian Church on earth – and each of us as individual members of it. God's Word declares it. It not a choice – the Church and the ministry, or nothing. No, the Church and the ministry is where and how God has chosen to work. Does anyone understand why this is so? Of course not, but that's what God has revealed to us in His Word, and so we simply cling to it by faith.

The reason we go to Church then is because God is there doing what He has promised to do through the means of grace He has appointed. Hence one's "Church shopping" should consist only of finding that place where the Word of Truth is taught in all its purity and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ's institution. God doesn't want us hopping all around trying to find a Church that fits our own personality, felt needs and wants, but instead He wants us to find that place where the voice of Christ clearly speaks and the hands of Christ are delivering God's grace to His people in the Sacraments – all through the mediation or instrumentality of the ordained pastor. If we judge a Church on any other merits or some other basis, we will miss the forest for the trees. Personal preference, a place that fits me like a glove, a place where I can do my thing for Jesus, etc... these only distract us from the one thing needful – Christ

working through His Word and Sacraments.

In our day it seems that many have confused going to Church with eating out and watching a movie. People want to go to the place that fits their taste, peruse the menu to order what meets their desires, eat for the sheer enjoyment of it, pay the bill and then look for some entertainment to cap the evening. People are starving themselves to death while right in front of them God is delivering the feast of His riches in the Gospel and the Sacraments – which are not delivered necessarily by a gifted entertainer whom everyone may enjoy, but by the pastor whom God has appointed to speak the Truth in season and out (when we want to hear it and even when we don't). Such is the sorry state of Christianity in America, where people think they are doing God a favor when they show up on Sunday morning and figure He owes them at least a good time for all their trouble. May it not be so among us!

Birthdays

Carl Wilson 7/2
 Andy Fairhurst 7/4
 Mary Wornson 7/5

Happy Birthday

Gabriel Sowell 7/12
 Stacy Stout 7/14
 Fred Walworth 7/15
 Ben Augur 7/15
 Colton Harris 7/17
 Tanner Slawson 7/22
 Tom Clemens 7/29

Kenneth Rogers 8/1
 Diane Strack 8/1
 Blythe Larson 8/1
 Vic Edwards 8/3
 Jeremy Harms 8/3
 Sydney Strack 8/5
 Lisa Hoffman 8/8
 Emily Goodroad 8/9
 Lynn Wood 8/10

Baptisms

Bob Howard 7/1
 Steve Harms 7/2



Jensen Mayes 7/5
 Alexandria Fairhurst 7/8
 Carson Schmidt 7/10
 June Ramer 7/11
 Jr. Darmstaetter 7/13
 Samuel Goodroad 7/14
 Matthew Brammeier 7/19
 Andy Fairhurst 7/22
 Kari Goodroad 7/25
 Jim Wornson 7/25
 Mary Wornson 7/28
 Colton Harris 7/30
 Alpha Wiese 8/1
 Sean Williams 8/1
 Samantha Slawson 8/9

Anniversaries

John & Jamie Luppess
 7/1/2006

Curt & Gwen Mayes
 7/2/1989

Terry & Mary Ellett
 7/4/1997

Steve & Adyline Christensen



7/11/1965

Tony & Ellen Propst
7/11/1987

Sam & Dana Goodroad
7/13/2012

Norm & Kay Sowell
7/18/1971

Scott & Lacey Mayes
7/23/2011

Rick & Diane Strack
8/10/1996

Elders

Vic Edwards
Larry Goodroad
Ken Meier
Dallas Hoffman
Peter Korondi
Bill Moore, Jr.

Acolytes

July 5 Conner Jackson
July 12 A.J. Martinez
July 19 Eli Ramer
July 26 Gabriel Sowell
August 2 Alex Abend
August 9 Joe Goodroad

Ushers

July 5 & 12

Bob Marchert & Don Mayes

July 19 & 26

Max Goodwin, Jim Hargrave

August 2 & 9

Steve Harms & Keith Wornson

Greeters

July 5

Jeff & Joyce Lehning

July 12

Jackie Augur & John Barth

July 19

Tony & Jane Alshouse

July 26

John & Jamie Luppess

August 2

Kaleb & Meghan Blankenship

August 9

Chris & Jessica Blunk

Altar Guild

July 5

Pat Owens & Mary Ellett

July 12

Deanna Korondi & Leslie Young

July 19

S. McCubbin & K. Goodroad

July 26

June Ramer & Phyllis Clemens

Ladies Night Out

Our next event is July 20 at 5:30 PM. We will meet for an evening of fellowship and good food at Cascone's Italian Restaurant @ 3737 N. Oak Tfwy., KCMO. If you cannot make it by 5:30, just come when you can. Please plan to join us and sign up on the kiosk. Questions? Contact Shari Schley at (816) 686-3270.

Board of Director's Meeting

June 8, 2015

Members present: Connie Brammeier, Mark Fairhurst, Dan Goodroad, Larry Goodroad, Nelson Hayes, Dee Hoffman, Bob

Marchert, Pastor, and Lisa Starkebaum.

Bob called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer.

Elias LeBouf transferred to the Church Triumphant since our last meeting.

Mark moved we accept the amended April minutes. Dan seconded.

Mark moved we accept the May minutes. Dan seconded.

Pastor: Will be preaching at Tyler's ordination June 21st. He and Norm are going to the District Convention this month.

VP: Working on a draft for the Building Use policy.

Treasurer's Report: N/A

Elders: No meeting last month, nothing new to report.

Properties: Due to all the rain we have major waves in our carpet. We need to look into estimates on a fix for the carpet and possibly a sump pump. Also we need to possibly spray weed killer around the air conditioners and fence around the preschool playground.

Evangelism: Has been looking into programs to outreach to new people who have recently moved to the area. It will be \$100/year for leads. Will be working on writing a postcard to send out.

Education: Summer Sunday school has started, had a picnic on June 7th, and plans to clean up the preschool site.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report.

Youth: Will be going to Las Vegas now due to schedule conflicts. They are working on conference shirts and holding pre-conference Bible studies.

Public Relations: Continuing to submit articles.

Planning: N/A

Services: Had one funeral and has a wedding basket to deliver.

Mark moved we close. Nelson seconded.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Goodroad, Secretary

Why English Is So Hard

We'll begin with a box and the plural is boxes, but the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes. One fowl is called goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese. You may



find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice, yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen? If I speak of my foot and show you my feet, and gave you a boot, would a pair be called beet? If one is a tooth and whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose, and the plural of cat is cats, not cose. We speak of brother and also of brethren, but though we say mother we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and

him, but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim!

Stewardship Thought

All of us, I'm sure are familiar with Jesus' parable of the talents – how the master gave five talents to one of his servants, to another two, and to another only one. You know how the story ends. The servant with five talents doubled his master's money, as did the servant who had been given two, but the servant who had only been given one talent feared his master and rather than investing his money he hid it away lest it be lost and made no use of it at all.

While there may not be a direct parallel to our life of stewardship as children of God, there are certainly some lessons that might be gleaned from the parable, for our Master, Jesus, has given each of us certain "talents" that He expects us to use for the benefit of His kingdom. The problem is that often the ways in which these talents are needed seem too mundane and ordinary.

Now most people can get behind a project such as a new building, an elevator, a chair lift or a new kitchen, but there are day to day places where our talents are needed as well. We still have to care for our pastor and his family. We have to pay the water bill, the electric bill, the gas bill, the telephone bill, etc. And while these may seem unimportant, we need to remember why our Church is here in the first place. It's here so that you can hear God's Word and receive God's gifts. And having received that Word you can then be better prepared to share it with those whom God places in your path. Where

will this happen if we aren't using our talents to keep the doors of the Church open and welcoming?

When our Lord returns may He not find us hording our talents out of fear, but using them wisely for the good of His kingdom.

In Christ, Nelson Hayes

Stewardship Chairman

Lutherans For Life

The Northland Chapter meets the quarterly at the home of Fran and Marsha Szarejko. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Murphy, 628-6815. Everyone is invited to join us at these meetings.

LWML

Date: June 8, 2015

Call to Order: Dianne Mischlich

Opening Hymn: "With the Lord Begins Your Task"

Opening Prayer: LWML Pledge was recited.

Attendance: Pastor Newman, Dianne Mischlich, Diane Schmidt, Dee Hoffman, Kay Sowell, Marlo Howard, Janet Miller, June Lueckert, Janis Bozarth

Minutes: May meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kay Sowell reported a current balance of \$1,240.13. A free will offering was taken.

Mite Report: June Lueckert reported total Mites of \$58.52. Meeting mites were collected.

Quilting Report: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: A motion was made by Janis Bozarth and seconded by Janet Miller that we use proceeds collected from Best

Choice labels toward mites. Motion carried. Marlo Howard will contact Ronald McDonald house and we will wait for update.

New Business: Marlo Howard reported on upcoming LWML convention in Iowa. Discussed LWML grants to possibly go toward support of orphanage in Dominican Republic supporting Rev. Preus and his family. Various options were discussed how to raise money for this. Marlo Howard made a motion that we donate \$300.00 from the LWML treasury to Pastor Preus and his family. Diane Schmidt seconded. Motion carried.

Third Sunday Treats

July 19: Marlo Howard, Joyce Lehning, Dianne Mischlich

August 16: June Lueckert, Janet Miller, Dianne Mischlich

September 20: Diane Schmidt, Kay Sowell, Dianne Mischlich

Next meeting will be Monday, July 13, at 9:00 a.m. with Penny Harris as hostess. Business meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Newman.

Bible Study: Pastor Newman led Bible study entitled "Where He Promises to Be".

Janis Bozarth was hostess and served cheesecake with blueberry sauce. No quilting meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,
Janis Bozarth, Secretary

Trinity Care Group

Do you need assistance because of illness, birth of a baby, death, hospitalization, etc.? Trinity Care Group can help. We would be happy to arrange for providing meals, doing errands, visiting with

the family, etc. Please contact Dee Hoffman at 320-2490.

Sports Vs. Church

WARNING: The following may make you uncomfortable...may even make you mad! (This was taken off of a blog on the Internet and I thought it was rather thought provoking)

Last Sunday morning I found myself sitting on a soccer field with one of my children for a tournament game.

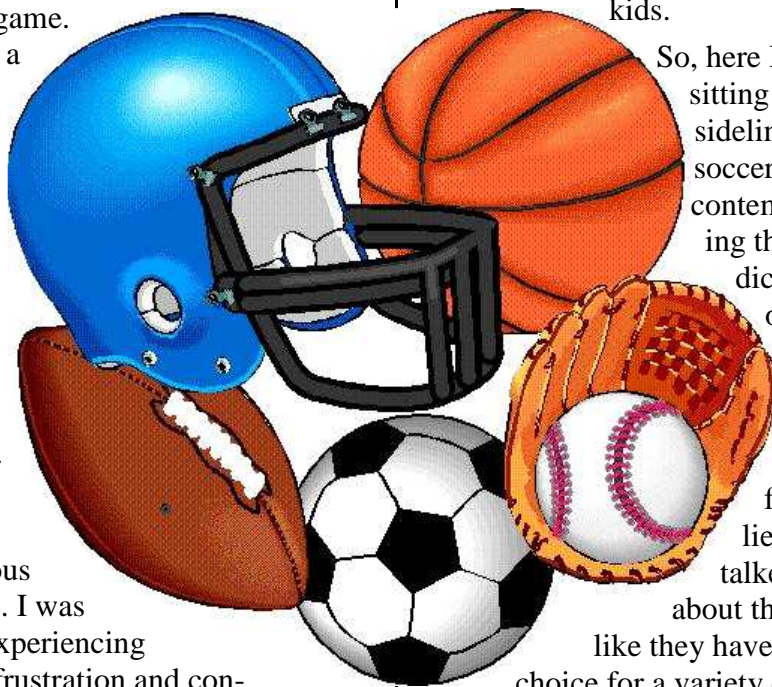
It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining. I was enjoying some fabulous coffee. I was also experiencing great frustration and conflict. I was frustrated because I could count 20 families from our Church who were also at sports games that morning. This meant that these families were not at Church.

I was also conflicted as I reflected on how I got into this situation. My husband and I know the value of Church family. We know that consistency is very important for our children to build relationships with their Church family and to grow as disciples of Christ. We have made many decisions over the years to say "no" to other things in order to

say "yes" to Church. And, yet, here I was on a soccer field on a Sunday morning! A couple weeks earlier the coach gathered the parents around and presented this opportunity for the soccer tournament that would land on a Saturday and Sunday. The way it was put to us, I felt like I had no choice but to participate. The team wouldn't be able to play in the tournament unless everyone chose to play. If we said no, we would be letting down 12 other kids.

So, here I was sitting on the sidelines of a soccer game contemplating the predicament of so many families. Many families I've talked to about this feel

like they have no choice for a variety of reasons. Maybe it's a sport that our kids love, maybe there are opportunities that would be missed if we pulled our kids, maybe we feel an obligation to a team, maybe there's real potential in our little athletes that may never be recognized. There are many reasons that we come to the decisions that keep our families away from Church. I completely understand how we get there – but I also know the long term effect that missing Church will take on our families. And that's the predicament that has been tormenting me. Now, I'm not saying that one



missed Sunday is going to derail your children's spiritual growth. But I have noticed that our society is set up to undermine this discipline of regular fellowship with our Church family. So unless we are very vigilant to protect our Church commitment, we can quickly find that one Sunday missed has become many Sundays missed, and before long Church has ceased to be a habit and is reduced to something we do when we don't have anything else to do on Sunday mornings.

When we say "yes" to one thing, we are saying "no" to something else. I have seen it too easily happen that without meaning to reject Church, families are saying "yes" to extracurricular activities – but this "yes" is also a "no" to consistency at Church activities and developing relationships with our Church family. I have spoken to so many parents who spend years on the field, at the pool, on the ski slopes, in the gym, or in the studio and when they get to the other side of these years have deep regrets. Their children don't want to go to Church, they don't have relationships with peers or leaders who know and love Jesus, and they have not developed the discipline of making Church a priority. These parents who now have grown children have expressed that they would do it different if they could go back and do it again. I have had several parents with grown children express that it was not worth it. They did not carefully guard their priorities and allowed other commitments to push out what was most important. They can look back and see that the time spent on other activities directly affected their children's relationship with

Church and this directly affected their relationship with God.

Church attendance is not the goal...however, Church is the way that God has provided for people to grow in their knowledge and love of who God is and build relationships with other disciples and from this time of focusing on Jesus and connecting with others who love Jesus we can go out into the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ and his love with others.

I'm back to my predicament....I know that Church is important....I also feel like I don't have a choice sometimes. Can we learn from the parents that have gone before us? Can we step back a bit and think about the adults that we are raising? What if our children get to their early 20's and have no relationship with God or other disciples of Jesus? Will we look back and say, "Well, at least they made it to the championships?" Or will we look back with regrets and disappointment that our priorities were not reflected on our calendar?

Like I said earlier, this particular weekend I could count 20 families in the same position that I found myself in. Most were also frustrated and feeling helpless. Most of my friends find themselves making this no-win choice at some point in the year depending on the season. Many families are even sacrificing rest and are so busy and going so hard that they are making themselves physically sick.

Could there be a better way? What if we *all* joined together and said, "**No!** No more sports on Sundays!"? When we were kids, there was never anything scheduled on Sundays. We never had to choose

between sports and Church. Sundays were saved for Church and family and gathering with friends. Can we reclaim our Sundays if we all worked together?

I propose that we give it a try! I also will say that even if our society won't cooperate, for me and my family I will do what I can to maintain consistency for my children to be at Church and build relationships with other kids and youth who know and love Jesus! I will not tell you what is best for your family...I will encourage you to take some time out to prayerfully consider this, talk it over with your spouse, and make sure your priorities determine your calendar and not the other way around.

Top Of The Hill

The Group's next event is Tuesday, July 14, at 11:30 We will meet at Church for sandwiches, salad and dessert. Please join us for lots of fun, fellowship and great food!

Family Fellowship

Looking for a weekend adventure? Family Fellowship is planning a float trip on the Niangua River, near Bennett Springs, July 17-19. We have a group campsite reserved & there are cabins. Camping is \$3 person/night and canoes are \$32. Everyone is welcome! There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk or you may contact Craig Schley @ cschley1960@gmail.com or (816)564-8725.

*Soli
Deo
Gloria*