

Covenant Church Newsletter

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A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,

Loving People,

Making Disciples

August 2021

Pastor's Ponderings...

We live in difficult times. Church and school, business and community leaders are arrested and jailed. Every day we hear news stories of children who are abused, neglected, and sometimes even killed. We hear of marriages falling apart, children gone astray, and lives ruined on the shores of a culture that basically says, "anything goes." Crime, drug abuse, and hunger are symptoms of flaws in our health care, welfare, and affordable housing systems. The list goes on and on.

Of course, those who have been around will tell us that none of this is anything new. Our society always seems to be on the brink of ruin, and each generation wrings its hands over the looming threat of that which follows. Are these times really any different?

Perhaps not, but just because past generations have wrung their hands doesn't mean we shouldn't wring ours. Moreover, there is a good bit of evidence that the problems our world is facing today *are* worse than before, if only because there are so many more people than before. It's not that we need to return, Amish-like, to some earlier time when we imagine that life was perfect. It never was. But we become complacent or, worse yet, despairing, at our own even greater peril.

Followers of Jesus Christ must always have an urgency for our world and a passion for its people. And this, in turn, must give us an urgency and a passion for God. We cannot hope to make the slightest dent in the world's woes if we have not first spent time with our Lord Jesus Christ. He knows the problems, He knows the solutions, and He knows what we need to do.

The balance of our Christian love should be that we see our dirty fingernails as we fold our hands in prayer. If we charge off to fix the world in our wisdom and strength, we will end up tilting at windmills. If we spend all our time in spiritual pursuit, singing hymns and enjoying fellowship, we will end up being irrelevant. Both action and prayerful contemplation are needed.

Which raises the question. What are you doing to feed your soul and to serve our world? We may live in difficult times, but God invites us to work for a different reality. I

encourage you, even in these relaxed summer months, to be diligent in prayer and in getting your fingernails dirty!

In Christ,
Brant

From The Clerk

Our Mission Team and Pastor Brant have joined our city's Faith Alliance which will focus on helping the homeless. They are modelling after the "I Help" program. Look for opportunities to help. Our 5th Sunday missions offering for August will go to Logos Christian Academy. Their wonderful principal, Dr. Ken Ross will join us again in worship and bring us another outstanding message on that Sunday as well.

Have you noticed we have another Praise Singer helping to lead our congregation in songs to our Lord? Welcome aboard, Brayden Moore.

Men's Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please just show up or if you have questions, you can call Pastor Brant (520-876- 2888 or 480-458- 7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

August Calendar

- 1 Communion
- 3 Books Are Best, 2:30pm at IHOP
- 4 We've Got Game, 2:00pm at Carol Smith's home
- 7 Spinners, meet at 6:00am at L'Grande Café
- 8 Adult Sunday School, after service from 11:15 – Noon. Title, "Doctrines of Demons"
- 11 Prayers at the flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary, 9:00am
- 11 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 12 Worship Team, 1:00pm
- 12 Newcomer & Neighbors Club, 5:30pm at the church

- 14 Click a Pic, meet at 8:00am at the Neon Park
- 18 Crazy Crafters, 2:00pm TBD
- 19 Session meeting, 6:00pm
- 21 Neighbor Helping Neighbor, meet at 6:00am at L'Grande Café
- 25 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol Smith's
- 28 World Problem Solvers, 8:30am at L'Grande Café

August Birthdays

- 2 Richard Taylor
- 6 Lisa Koster
- 10 Pep Villanueva
- 15 Gayle Leniger
- 16 Whitney Villanueva
- 29 Chet Dorsey

August Anniversaries

- 4 Clayton & Lisa Koster
- 15 Darold & Lois Wiege
- 22 Rev. Brant & Karen Baker
- 30 Charles "Bud" & Mary K. Myers